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Japan

Shopkeepers Complain About U.S. Demands

OW2704101590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0756 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 KYODO—Officials of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) met with harsh words, grumbling, and grievances from small shopkeepers on Friday as they tried to explain to an advisory panel the easing of regulations on large-scale stores as promised in a trade agreement with the United States.

The ministry presented its plans to ease legal restrictions on the opening of large stores to a joint meeting of the subcommittees of the Industrial Structure Council and the Small and Medium Enterprise Policy Making Council, both MITI's advisory panels. The measures announced include cutting down the approval time required for licensing large retail stores to a maximum of 18 months from up to 10 years at present, and making such approval unnecessary for stores wanting to expand sales floors to devote an additional 100 square meters or less to foreign goods.

Japan vowed to implement these steps by the end of May in an agreement reached early in April with the U.S. in the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII). They are regarded as the first step in a three-tier project to liberalize Japan's inefficient distribution system.

At Friday's meeting, representatives of industry organizations grouping small shopkeepers voiced strong opposition and skepticism toward the proposals, MITI officials said. Their antagonism stems from fears that the proposed steps may lead to a flood of new large retail stores opening, and could jeopardize the very existence of tiny "mom and pop" stores.

Some of them expressed bitter feelings about MITI's stressing the interests of consumers, which they said makes it sound as though small shops are hurting consumer interests. Others called for well-organized measures to protect small stores, saying their livelihoods are threatened by the agreement.

The greatest concern among them was that the second and third series of measures promised in the agreement, which include a revision of the large-scale retail stores law, and a review after two years of the effectiveness of the measures, could put even more pressure on small shopkeepers. But their opposition is unlikely to produce any substantial shift by MITI, since economic relations with the U.S. depend on the faithful implementation of the promised measures.

The meeting "approved" the MITI proposals in spite of the opposition, the officials said. MITI will release an ordinace by the end of May to legalize the measures, they said.

Telecommunications Decontrol Schedule Promised

OW2604150990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1433 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—Japan notified the United States on Thursday it will draw up a schedule for liberalizing the market for telecommunications equipment known as network channel terminating equipment (NCTE) by the end of August. The NCTE is a modem-like device used to connect computers with a digital communications network.

The policy move was conveyed by Minoru Shioya, vice minister for posts and telecommunications, to Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Linn Williams at a meeting in Tokyo.

In Japan, NCTE is considered part of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) network facilities. NTT buys the equipment from Japanese makers and leases it to subscribers. But in the United States, where NCTE is deemed part of user facilities, companies and individuals that use digital networks purchase the equipment.

In late March, Japan told the U.S. that it would, in principle, permit Japanese subscribers to hold NCTES by way of market-opening.

Shioya told Williams that the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications [MPT] has already permitted users to hold NCTES for NTT's digital data exchange (DDX).

He also said the MPT will permit users from mid-May to own NCTES for digital telecom circuits based on the same or a similar technological level to NTT's DDX. This means that about 90 percent of the NCTES now in use in Japan may be owned by users if they so wish, the Japanese official said.

Shioya added, however, that the market for integrated services digital network (ISDN) NCTES would not be opened immediately, since ISDN is likely to undergo a technological change in the years ahead. He said the market will be opened when it becomes possible. ISDN is an integrated digital telecom service and can fast transmit voice, data and fascimiles over the same channel.

Williams called on the MPT to take steps to permit users to own NCTES for services available for the public. He also urged that the specifications of NTT's NCTE be made public.

In regard to international VAN (value added network) services, the U.S. official asked that the scope of business be expanded to the entire field except basic services like sound. Williams also called on Japan to make administrative formalities on registration and the setting of charges transparent.

Shioya replied that high-function facsimile communications would be permitted. He added, however, that a request for any further broadening of the scope of

services would be studied case by case, considering the possible effect on existing service operators and the technology involved.

Experts from the two governments are expected to meet Friday in Tokyo for consultations on NCTE and international VAN.

Amorphous Metals Talks With U.S. Open in Tokyo

OW2604132090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1126 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—Japan and the United States held their first bilateral talks Thursday on trade in amorphous metals. Japanese negotiators stressed that the talks will not necessarily lead to any action on Japan's part, officials of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said.

The meeting followed the announcement last week by the two governments that they would hold talks aimed at resolving the issue within 150 days.

U.S. Trade Representative [USTR] Carla Hills decided against citing Japan's amorphous metals market as a new target under the Super 301 provision of 1988 U.S. Trade Act, as had been requested by Allied-Signal Inc., a U.S. maker of the high-tech material that filed a complaint with the USTR in March.

The Japanese delegation at Thursday's meeting was headed by Naomichi Suzuki, vice minister for international affairs, and the U.S. team was headed by Linn Williams, deputy USTR, the MITI officials said.

Suzuki stressed that Japan's agreement to hold the talks does not imply that it has accepted any part of Allied-Signal's charges that Japan adopts unfair trade practices over the materials, the officials said. He also said the talks are aimed primarily at comprehending the facts about the issue, and there is no premise that Japan will take concrete measures.

The basic principle about trade talks is that governments should not intervene in decisions made by companies, Suzuki said. The Japanese delegates explained in detail Japan's view that Allied-Signal's charges are based on the firm's misunderstanding about the facts.

Hirofumi Kawano, director of MITI's Americas-Oceania Division, who briefed reporters on the meeting, said, "I have no idea as to what will actually come out of the talks, or what kind of solutions will result from them."

The two sides agreed to hold the next, expert-level meeting in mid-May.

JSP Official, Sakamoto Discuss Korean Issues

OW2604023390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1533 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Japan Socialist Party Diet member Hajime Fukada will visit North Korea between May 4 and 8 as part of the JSP's efforts to win an early release of two Japanese seamen detained there, party officials said Wednesday. JSP Secretary General Tsuruo Yamaguchi told reporters that Fukada is going at the invitation of the Korea Workers Party and will ask it to send a Politburo member to Japan.

Fukada, a House of Councilors member and head of the JSP's National Movement Bureau, last visited North Korea in June 1988. At that time, he brought back with him letters and photos from the retained seamen for their relatives.

Earlier in the day, Yamaguchi and Fukada met Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto to ask if the cabinet of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is maintaining an earlier government position expressing remorse for Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule of Korea and pledging efforts to improve Japan-North Korean ties, JSP officials said.

Sakamoto told the socialists that the Kaifu Cabinet has never changed that position, expressed by then Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita in early 1989.

Sakamoto assured the JSP officials that the Japanese Government will permit a North Korean delegation to enter Japan unconditionally as it did in a similar case in 1989, the officials said.

The two seamen—Isamu Beniko, skipper of the freighter No. 18 Fujisan Maru, and Yoshio Kuriura, its chief engineer—have been detained in North Korea since November 1983 when they were seized on espionage charges.

Official Confirms ROK President's May Visit

OW2504143190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1118 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—South Korean President No Tae-u's visit to Japan remains on schedule for May 24-26, a top government official said Wednesday. The official denied speculation that the date might be changed because both governments suddenly cancelled an official announcement on No's itinerary, which was to be issued Wednesday.

South Korea says settlement of the legal status of third-generation Korean residents in Japan is a precondition for No's Japan trip, but early this month softened its stance, separating the issue from No's visit. Seoul's mass madia and opposition groups have been criticizing the policy shift.

Under such unstable situations in South Korea, the Seoul government might be prudent in announcing a definite date of the president's visit, the official said.

Rally Protests Extradition of PRC Hijacker

OW2604151390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1417 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—Some 100 people carrying candles held a protest rally in Tokyo on Thursday evening against Japan's decision to extradite suspected hijacker Zhang Zhenhai to China.

Meanwhile, his lawyers said they will make a last-minute bid to halt the extradition Friday by applying to the courts for a writ of habeas corpus.

The protesters in Thursday's rally included members of human rights groups, Diet members, and Zhang's chief defense lawyer, who criticized the decision to extradite him as lacking an international sense of human rights protection. The rally, held in Ginza, one of Tokyo's busiest districts, was told by Kazuo Ito, chief defense attorney for Zhang, that neither the Japanese courts nor Justice Minister Shin Hasegawa seriously looked into human rights aspect of the case.

Zhang, 36, claims he carried out the December 16 hijaking of the Air China passenger plane, which had 233 people on board, to escape being persecuted for his part in pro-democracy activities. The pro-democracy movement was crushed in last year's June 4 military crackdown in Beijing.

Zhang reportedly ordered the plane, bound from Beijing to New York, to fly to South Korea. But it was turned away from Seoul and instead went to Fukuoka, where he was detained after being pushed out through an open door by a member of the crew after it landed.

Hasegawa ordered prosecutors to extradite Zhang on Monday after the Tokyo high court last Friday rejected his plea for political asylum and approved his extradition.

The Foreign Ministry on Tuesday submitted a custody permit for Zhang to the Chinese Embassy in Tokyo, paving the way for him to be handed over virtually at any moment. The Tokyo district court also turned down Zhang's petition to remain in Japan.

Ito said, "We gravely regret it. It is extremely sad. The high court, district court and justice minister, none of them dared to make judgments on the assurance of his human rights in sending back a political criminal to China, from where he escaped."

The high court ruling rejected the argument that hijacking can be regarded as a political crime and said the extradition was justified, though it added there remain doubts as to whether human rights are properly protected in China. It left the final decision to Hasegawa.

The chief lawyer said Britain and France have asked Tokyo to take careful steps to safeguard Zhang's human rights and that American lawmakers have urged that he be allowed to instead stand trial in Japan. He also said he will lodge a protest with the United Nations Human Rights Committee and will ask China to allow them to be present at Zhang's trial in China if he is taken back.

Members of the Japanese branch of the London-based human rights group Amnesty International and some 20 other Japanese civic groups participated in the meeting.

In the rally, six Chinese residents in Tokyo who had just finished a 72-hour protest hunger strike read out a letter they sent to both Hasegawa and Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Thursday. It said Tokyo's handover decision hurt those world communities cherishing the universal value of human rights and greatly damaged Japan's international image. One of the Chinese called out, "has the Japanese Government forgotten June 4 (a military crack down in Beijing's Tiananmen Square)?"

Japan's extradition law empowers Chinese officials to take custody of Zhang at Tokyo detention house and take him back to China by May 23. But government sources said officials from both nations are discussing when and how to carry out his early transfer.

A Japan Socialist Party member of the House of Representatives, Shuo Matsubara, urged the government to reverse the decision, which he said was politically influenced.

Kaifu Seeks To Deepen Ties With Asian Leaders

OW2504141590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1300 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Wednesday said he would make every effort to deepen relations with the leaders of five Asian countries during his scheduled nine-day Asian tour beginning April 28. Kaifu made the remark in a meeting with Indian, Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Sri Lankan and Indonesian ambassadors to Japan at the prime minister's office.

Indonesian Ambassador Yogi Supardi conveyed the compliments of President Suharto, quoting him as saying he is very grateful to Kaifu for visiting Indonesia despite his busy schedule.

Indian Ambassador Arjun Asrani said it is very important for India and Japan to rebuild bilateral relations. Kaifu leaves for New Delhi on Saturday at the start of his Asian tour.

USSR Orders Refrigerator Compressor Plants

OW2504113490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1045 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—The Soviet Union has ordered two plants from a group of Japanese companies for the manufacture of compressors for refrigerators, it was announced Wednesday.

Nissho Iwai Corp., Sanyo Electric Co. and Toyo Engineering Co. said the orders were placed by the Soviet

state-run Industrial Technology Import Corporation, Avtromimport. The contract was valued at about 20 billion yen.

The Japanese companies said one of the facilities, with an annual output capacity of 1 million compressers, will be installed in the Ukrainian Republic and the other, capable of producing 1.5 million, will be established in the Russian Republic. The Export-Import Bank of Japan will provide a loan to help finance the deal, the companies said.

The new order followed a Soviet decision to move the location of another compressor manufacturing plant from Lithuania to the Russian Republic in the wake of flareups between Moscow and the breakaway republic. Officials of the companies said they have dispatched a survey mission to the Russian Republic to look for a site for the plant.

A previous order also involved expansion of an existing production facility in Lithuania. Officials of Nissho Iwai said Moscow apparently has no intention of establishing a refrigerator plant in Lithuania even if the situation in the republic returns to normal.

Institute Notes Coal Dependence on Australia

OW2504141490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1306 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Fueled by growing demand from the electric power industry, Japan's steaming coal imports will increase to 50 million tons in 1995 from the present annual average of 29 million tons, a private energy research institute reported Wednesday. The Institute of Energy Economics made the prediction in an analytical report on the present and future situation of the Australian coal industry.

The institute said domestic production of coal will continue to dwindle while demand from the electric power industry will expand by more than 20 million tons over the next five years. It said Japan should diversify supply sources by lessening dependence on Australia, currently the top coal supplier to Japan.

The institute said Japanese coal imports in 1989 totaled 29.3 million tons, with Australia accounting for 69 percent, followed by the Soviet Union with 8 percent. Australia will remain the top coal supplier to Japan in the future because demand from the paper and pulp and chemical industries is expected to grow, the institute said.

The institute predicted prices of imported coal will grow in the next five years at an annual rate of about 7 percent in view of growing demand worldwide.

Minister Investigates Bangladesh Aid Kickbacks

OW2604000290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1442 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—The Government is now pursuing allegations of a kickback scandal involving Japan's financial assistance to Bangladesh, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said Monday. Nakayama made the remark in response to opposition questioner Yanosuke Narasaki at a House of Representatives Budget Committee meeting.

Narasaki told the panel the Bangladesh Government's Ministry for Relief and Rehabilitation invited bidding in August last year for 520 lifeboats with 2.5 billion yen of the 5.232 billion yen Japan extended in grant-in-aid in 1988. Kinsho-Mataichi Corp., a trading company in Tokyo, was the only bidder which submitted a below-budget bid of just under 2.3 billion yen for procurement of the lifeboats. But the contract was awarded to Marubeni Corp., another trading house, at the second-lowest bid, the Dietman said.

Local press reports in Bangladesh recently alleged that kickbacks for President Hussain Mohammad Ershad lay behind the irregular bidding result, prompting the local legislature to start a probe into the scandal.

In the Japanese parliamentary session, Nakayama said officials at the Japanese Embassy in Dhaka are inquiring of responsible Bangladeshi Government officials about the suspected abuse of the Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA), which is based on taxes collected from Japanese nationals.

Agency Urges 'Sweeping Structural Reforms'

OW2604122690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0722 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—Japan should undergo sweeping structural reforms to make its economy more internationally minded, consumer-oriented, and one that can prosper amid the rapid aging of its own population and the growing threat to the global environment, a government report said Thursday. The report, prepared by an advisory panel to the prime minister, stressed the importance of structural reforms that should enable the Japanese economy to continue its current solid growth into the 21st century.

Among the dozens of recommendations the report made for such reforms are calls for redressing trade imbalances, deregulating to open markets more widely, narrowing price gaps between Japan and other countries, promoting land reform, and shortening working hours.

Billing the resolution of the land problem "the largest and most urgent" task for attaining an affluent standard of living for the people, it called for an embodiment of the spirit of the basic land act, a fundamental review of current land taxation, and measures to increase the land supply.

The report also cited employment problems as a major hurdle for the Japanese economy. It argued that women will account for more than half of the additional workforce toward the next century, and emphasized that it is important to adjust the working conditions to the expected increase in female workers.

With regard to Japan's contribution to the world community, the report urged the government to issue a clearer message to the world about the tenet for Japan's international contributions. It suggested "symbiosis and empathy" as that message.

More emphasis should be placed on technology, know-how, and human resources when Japan thinks about what it can do for the world, the report said.

In order to redress the huge trade imbalance, the report pressed the government to further promote imports and to make efforts to sustain the current ecomomic expansion driven by domestic demand.

With regard to price gaps between the domestic and overseas markets, it said the crux of the matter is how to boost the functions of the free market mechanism. Toward that end, further deregulations and reforms of the markets are important, it said.

As concrete steps that should be taken to promote these causes, the report, among other things, recommended loosening of the law that restricts operations of large-sized retail stores, rationalization of the rice distribution system, augmentation of the antimonopoly law, realization of a five-day work week for public workers, and improvements to the social infrastructure.

Kaifu Meets First Japanese Astronaut 26 Apr

OW2604065590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0617 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu met Thursday with physicist Mamoru Mori, who has been chosen to fly on an American spacecraft that is set to be launched next year. Mori, 42, will be the first Japanese to fly on an American spacecraft. He formerly was an assisitant professor at Hokkaido University.

Mori told Kaifu he will soon visit the United States for training. The Atlantis Shuttle he will be boarding is to be launched in June next year.

Two astronaut candidates also attended the meeting at the prime minister's official residence. They were Chiaki Mukai, 37, and Takao Doi, 35. They are to leave Japan with Mori for the U.S. on Sunday and will assist in his training at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

"I will wait for your visit to Houston," Mori told Kaifu, who is to attend a summit meeting of seven industrial nations in Houston in July.

North Korea

'Traitor' No Tae-u's Trip to Japan 'Denounced'

SK2704062090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 27 (KCNA)—A rally was held in Tokyo on April 19 to denounce the traitor No Tae-u's upcoming visit to Japan and demand the release of all political prisoners under the sponsorship of the "National Council of Societies for Rescuing Japan-Resident Korean Political Prisoners in South Korea" and the "Society of Families and Compatriots for Rescuing Japan-resident Korean Political Prisoners in South Korea," the Korean News Service in Japan reported.

The speakers at the rally said that the No Tae-u group is trying to use the "release of So Song on parole" and something like that in misleading public opinion and creating the impression that democratisation is underway in South Korea, but no one will believe it.

They strongly denounced the traitor No Tae-u's upcoming visit to Japan as one aimed at perpetuating the division.

Suhiro Maeda, a journalist of MANICHII SHIMBUN, gave a lecture at the rally.

He explained the anti-national purpose of No's visit to Japan.

A resolution denouncing No's visit and demanding the release of political prisoners was adopted at the rally.

International Group To Investigate 'Wall'

SK2704052090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0450 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 27 (KCNA)—The International Liaison Committee for the Reunification and Peace of Korea announced the information on April 24 on dispatching an international fact-finding team to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in order to investigate the concrete wall built in the area South of the Military Demarcation Line.

Recalling that the South Korean authorities are now refusing to accept the proposal for pulling down the concrete wall and denying its existence itself, the information said that the international fact-finding team aims at confirming the existence of the concrete wall and informing the world public opinion of its results.

In February, the International Liaison Committee, notifying the North and South authorities of Korea of the decision on the dispatch of the fact-finding team, demanded them to offer conveniences to its activities in the areas of both sides of the Military Demarcation Line and sent a letter also to the secretary-general of the United Nations requesting him to support the initiative, peaceful and humanitarian, the information noted, and stated:

The DPRK Government instantly sent us an affirmative reply. On the contrary, no reply has come from the South Korean authorities.

World public opinion will direct serious attention to this.

Under such circumstances, the International Liaison Committee decided to dispatch a fact-finding team to the DPRK and start investigation into the setups built in the area South of the Military Demarcation Line from April 27.

'Repression' Intensified by Police in South

SK2704051490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0429 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 27 (KCNA)—The No Tae-u fascist group is reportedly intensifying repression of the forces advocating independence, democracy and reunification on the threshold of the "national congress of the Democratic Liberal Party" slated for May 9.

The fascist group ordered police throughout South Korea on April 24 to be on alert, saying it had received an information that "student activists including those belonging to 'Chondaehyop' [National Council of University Student Representatives] plan to occupy the U.S. Embassy and public buildings and hold sit-in protests against the national congress."

Accordingly, the fascist police is tightening guard over the U.S. Embassy, "cultural centers," enterprises and other U.S.-related institutions and conducting checkup and search after throwing a strict cordon around the "DLP" building, "government" ministries and offices and public buildings.

This shows that the fear-stricken pro-American fascists forsaken by the people are seeking a way out in harsher fascist repression.

Commentary on 'Crackdown' on Media in South

SK2704062690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT 27 Apr 90

["Heinous Action To Fascistize Press"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 27 (KCNA)—The No Tae-u group threatens that it would not rule out the mobilization of "government" power for the second time, branding the struggle of unionists of the "Korea Broadcasting System" (KBS) in South Korea for the resignation of the "government"-installed president and the democratization of broadcasting as "an illegal group action."

This is a shameless act to bring broadcasting in South Korea under its strict control and supervision and thus reduce it to a political marionette for prettifying its treacherous acts and military fascist rule, says NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today.

The news analyst goes on:

This heinous behavior of the No Tae-u fascist clique is a crude infringement on the democratic rights and liberties of the South Korean people, and part of their high-handed moves to bring the information and press activities under their tighter control and fascistize them. This is another last-ditch effort of those who, driven to the blind alley, cannot maintain their "regime" even a moment without resorting to violence.

It is not uncommon in South Korea that publishing houses are closed under the "National Security Law" after they issued unbiased articles and reporters are robbed of their cameras and beaten while covering news on the scenes.

The No group has blocked the political development of South Korea by a political revolt called "grand conservative coalition" through the three-party merger and turned back the political situation to usher in a more grim era of political darkness than the days of the dictatorship of "Yusin" and the "Fifth Republic." It is now so despicably and viciously scheming to put the press under its tighter control and thoroughly blockade public opinion in an effort to justify its treacherous criminal acts and fascist dark rule and conceal its plot for long-term office.

All the pressmen including the unionists of the "KBS" will keep up their fight, not yielding to whatever crackdown and persecution, to smash the fascist clique's moves for fascistization of the press and certainly win their democratic rights and freedom of the press.

Kim Il-song Sends Greetings to Nicaragua

SK2704103590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 27 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on April 25 sent a message of greetings to Violeta Barrios de Chamorro on her inauguration as president of the Republic of Nicaragua.

The message expresses the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two peoples will continue to develop in accordance with the idea of independence, peace and friendship.

O Chin-u, Choe Kwang Attend Cuban Reception

SK2704063690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0503 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 27 (KCNA)—Ulises Rosales del Toro, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, first deputy minister of the revolutionary armed forces and chief of general staff of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, gave a reception at the Cuban Embassy here Thursday evening upon the conclusion of the Korean visit of the Cuba military delegation headed by him.

O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and minister of People's Armed Forces, Choe Kwang, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chief of general staff of the Korean People's Army, and others were invited to the reception.

Present there was Cuba Ambassador to Korea Juan Jose Leon Vega.

Ulises Rosales del Toro, addressing the reception, said that the relationship between Cuba and Korea is based on the common struggle against imperialism and on socialist construction and the principle of proletarian internationalism.

The friendly relations between the two countries, he noted, entered a new phase of development after the Pyongyang visit of Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, the supreme commander, and his historical meeting and talks with the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

He expressed the belief that these friendly and cooperative relations would continue to favorably develop.

The Cuba people highly estimate the efforts of the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, he said.

Choe Kwang in his speech said that the Korean people and the officers and men of the People's Army rejoice as over their own over the precious feats and achievements gained by the Cuba people in the revolution and construction under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba headed by Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz.

He wholeheartedly wished the fraternal Cuba people and the officers and men of the Revolutionary Armed Forces greater success in their future struggle for further development of socialism and the strengthening of self-reliant national defence capacities.

The Korean people, he stressed, will make strenuous efforts in the future, too, to further consolidate and develop the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between Korea and Cuba in the spirit of the agreements and treaty reached at the meeting and talks between the great leader of the Korean people Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, the supreme leader of the Cuba people.

Yi Chong-ok Meets Chinese Delegations 26 Apr

SK2604152290 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1513 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 26 (KCNA)—Vice-president Yi Chong-ok today met and had a friendly talk with a delegation of the State Oceanography Bureau of China headed by Yan Hongmo, director of the Bureau, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

Present on the occasion were Yi Kon-il, director of the Hydro-Meteorological service, and an official of the Chinese Embassy here.

Vice-President Yi Chong-ok also met and had a friendly conversation with a Chinese Government trade delegation headed by Lu Xuejian, vice-minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade Song Hui-chol and an official of the Chinese Embassy here were on hand.

Protocol With PRC Signed on Commodity Delivery

SK2604153090 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1512 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 26 (KCNA)—A 1990 protocol on the delivery of commodities was signed here today between the governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China.

The protocol was signed by vice-minister of Foreign Trade Song Hui-chol and vice-minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade of China Lu Xuejian.

Choe Tae-pok Addresses Institute Anniversary

SK2704052690 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0437 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 27 (KCNA)—A meeting was held in Pyongyang on April 26 in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Central Institute of Quality and Measuring Science (April 1950).

Choe Tae-pok, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], conveyed a congratulatory message of the WPK Central Committee to the scientists, technicians and employees of the institute.

The message says that the Central Institute of Quality and Measuring Science has greatly contributed to the building of an independent national economy and the chuche-orientation, modernisation and scientification of the national economy by carrying out its tasks with success under the wise leadership of the party and the leader over the past 40 years since its founding.

It highly estimates the remarkable achievements made by the scientists, technicians and employees of the institute in developing the measuring science and technology and establishing a regular measuring and qualifying system through the devotion of their creative wisdom and talents over the four decades with a high loyalty to the party and the leader.

Then, Chong Ki-chol, director of the institute, made a report.

National Symposium Held on Kim Chong-il's Work

SK2704063090 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0420 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 27 (KCNA)—A national symposium on dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's work "on strengthening party guidance in the activities of the Working People's Organisations" took place in Pyongyang on April 26 on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of its publication.

The work is the letter sent by him to the national short course for officials in the party departments for the working people's organisations on April 30, 1985.

The speakers noted that the work is a great programme which illumines a bright road of consolidating the mass foundation of the party and further strengthening the subject of our revolution in which the leader, the party and the masses are united in one mind and an immortal revolutionary banner which firmly rallies the broad masses around the party and the leader and thus powerfully rouses them to the glorious struggle to accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche pioneered by the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The work proved that only when the working people's organisations become militant organisations boundlessly loyal to the party can they discharge their obligations as the transmission belts and peripheral organisations of the party and clearly indicated the basic guideline with which to build them into militant organisations faithful to the party's leadership by comprehensively systematizing such principled demands as firmly building up their ranks and establishing revolutionary discipline, the speakers stated, and went on:

The work gave a comprehensive systematisation of the idea on strengthening the party guidance over the working people's organisations with a tight grip on the work of helping them carry out their proper duties to conduct an effective ideological education of their members, intensifying the guidance over the organisational life and powerfully mobilizing them to the socialist construction.

The idea on increasing the independence of the working people's organisations in the party guidance over them is a creative ideology which applied in the building of the working people's organisations the chuche-based viewpoint that the success in the settlement of all matters depends upon increasing the responsibility and role of the workers of relevant domains, their masters.

What is important in the ideology and theory developed and enriched by the work is that the work enunciated the idea that party committees at all levels should turn the work with the working people's organisations into its own work in order to strengthen the party guidance in the work of the working people's organisations.

The speakers noted that the chuche-based idea and theory on the building of the working people's organisations have been further deepened and developed on to a new height thanks to the ideology and theory indicated by the work.

The symposium was attended by Kim Chung-in, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Kim Pong-chu, Yang Hyong-sop, Kim Kuk-tae, Kim Kuk-hon and other officials concerned.

Science, Technology Festival Opens in Pyongyang

SK2704101590 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1003 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 27 (KCNA)—The fifth Central Festival of Science and Technology opened in Pyongyang on April 26.

About 1,700 papers on scientific researches and technical innovations which were highly estimated at the national festival of science and technology held in provinces, cities and counties were submitted to the central festival.

The papers are greatly conducive to the development of the national economy and science and technology including the mining, machine-building, and electronics and automation industries.

The paper of Associate Doctor Chong Myong-song on the development of a new dynamite for mining and its characteristics, the paper of Associate Professor Yun Hyong-kyu on the introduction of computer system in ensuring and directing the opening and closing ceremonies of the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students, the paper of Associate Doctor Paek Song-yon on the introduction of diatomateous earth in the filtration of beer and drinking water and many other research proposals enjoy high estimation.

Especially, the paper "Studies of the Designing and Manufacture of Linear Integrated Circuit for FM Stereo Receiver" is drawing deep attention of the experts.

It was submitted by Ko Yong-pu of the Institute of Electronic Engineering.

The jury consisting of academicians, corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences, professors and doctors is examining the papers at 66 educational and scientific institutions in Pyongyang.

Festival cup and other prizes will be awarded to the authors of the papers estimated as excellent at the festival.

The festival which started in 1986 is participated in by all people including overseas Koreans who are interested in the development of science and technology of the country.

Nearly 10,000 more papers or science and technology and inventions and technical innovation proposals than the festival last year have been submitted to the festival this year.

'Quality' Magnesia Clinker Said Mass-Produced

SK2604155090 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1500 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 26 (KCNA)—The magnesia clinker industry of Korea is widely known for its vast prospect.

Magnesite, the basic raw material of magnesia clinker, is abundant in different areas of the country, an its quality and deposits rank first in the world.

Its leading producer is Tanchon City South Hamgyong Province.

The magnesite deposits in this district amount to more than 6,000 million tons. There are the Yongyang mine and the Taehung General Mining Enterprise in the area.

The Yongyang Mine, widely known as "a white gold mountain," annually produces several million tons of magnesite headings.

High-quality magnesite ore seams four to six kilometres in length and 10 to 250 metres in depth are embedded in this area. Their total length is 20 kilometres and their depth more than 2 kilometres.

It is nearly five decades since the mine was developed, but open-cast mining has so far been the basic method.

The potential of the Taehung Mine which was developed in the '70s has considerably increased in the '80s.

With the construction of scores of new kilns, it has turned into a general enterprise producing both magnesite ores and magnesia clinker.

An expansion project for increasing the production capacity of magnesite ores 60 percent is now progressing apace at this mine. The construction of a large-size ore-dropping chute and a long-distance belt conveyor pit has been finished and the construction of a crushing and screening ground is making headway briskly.

Projects for the reconstruction of 10 vertical kilns have been undertaken at one and the same time.

In Tanchon there is also a modern magnesia factory.

The Tanchon Magnesia Factory mass-produces quality magnesia clinker with magnesite from the Yongyang and Taehung mines.

Demands of foreign countries for magnesia clinker are on a daily growth.

Korea is increasing investment in this domain to decisively boost the production of magnesia clinker.

Corn Seedlings Transplantation Begins

SK2604153290 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1509 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 26 (KCNA)—The transplantation of maize humus-pot seedlings has begun in rural villages on the west coast of Korea.

The agricultural working people who have made full preparations for farming are transplanting in fields healthy maize humus-pot seedlings grown in cold beds.

Maize is one of the major crops in Korea.

Big efforts are put on cultivating maize, a high-yield crop, as well as rice.

Furrow irrigation and water-jetting system have been already introduced in maize fields so that per hectare yield is on the increase.

A 400 kilometre-long waterway project was successfully carried out in the western area of the country to more sufficiently supply water to fields.

The transplantation of maize humus-pot seedlings is making headway in all rural villages of North Hwanghae Province and South Pyongan Province, promising a higher and more stable yield.

Amount of Water Secured in Reservoirs Reported

SK2604154090 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1506 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 26 (KCNA)—Water enough for farming this year has been stored in the rural communities of Korea.

According to data available, 60,000 more chongmi (one chongmi is about 10,000 cubic metres) of water has been collected all over the country than in the corresponding period last year. Lakes Manpung, Yonpung and Taesong and other reservoirs, big and small, are filled with water. South Pyongan and Kangwon Provinces had stored the whole amount of water needed for this year's farming by the end of March. All the reservoirs in South Pyongan Province and Nampo Municipality are filled with water pumped from the River Taedong which has abundant water at its estuary blocked by the West Sea Barrage.

Rural communities in South Hwanghae province have secured more than 70,000 chongmi of water by making the maximum use of the existing irrigation facilities while directing big efforts to the excavation of new waterways.

Conscious that water is essential to farming, all the agricultural working people and officials of district irrigation stations and city and county irrigation stations are storing more water by operating the water pumps at full capacity.

South Korea

Deployment of North Troops Changes Reaction Time

SK2604230190 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 27 Apr 90 p 3

[Text] About 70 percent of North Korea's armed forces have been deployed in the forward area, drastically reducing to only 24 hours the time allowed for South Korea to prepare for contingencies.

According to an article in the Washington Times, South Korea had about 48 hours warning time before the recent forward deployment.

The daily said in the article about 70 percent of North Korea's 930,000 ground troops are positioned within 15 to 20 miles from the frontline, enabling them to launch a general invasion without the South's realization more than 24 hours in advance.

Article Analyzes Armed Forces in North

SK2704020190 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 24 Apr 90 p 20

[Text] The founding day of the Korean People's Army [KPA] is actually on 8 February 1948, seven months before the establishment of North Korea's regime.

As late as 1977, North Korea regarded 8 February as the founding day of the KPA and held commemorative events such as a parade by armed soldiers. However, in 1978, North Korea changed the founding day to 25 April saying that the root of the military is the Korean People's Revolutionary Army [KPRA] which Kim Il-song founded on 25 April 1932, at the age of 20.

As is already well known, the founding of the KPRA is the most wanton and enticing part of the various legends of Kim Il-song. This people's revolutionary army was fabricated to exaggerate that Kim achieved the liberation of the fatherland through taking the lead in the anti-Japanese armed struggle. However, there was no objective record anywhere that an independent anti-Japanese armed organization existed at that time which was established only by Koreans in Manchuria or in the northern part of Korea.

Apart from whether the people's revolutionary army existed or not, the reason North Korea regards the irregular warfare of great importance in the military organization and strategy, is first taking into account the topography of the Korean peninsula. However, this can also originate from the fact of regarding Kim's military experience as an intention to make this a military policy.

Another unique characteristic of North Korea's military is that it possesses a high degree of political character. The military of communist countries are understood as 'the army of the party,' and 'a revolutionary army.' However, the relationship between the party and military in North Korea is not only different from the relationship between the people and military of free democratic countries, it is also quite distinctive from the relationship between the party and military among the overall communist systems.

North Korea is paradoxically stating that in order to firmly defend the cause of the chuche-type revolution and to complete this generation after generation, the military must be a military of the party and revolution. This means that Kim Il-song's unitary ideological system has priority over the party's leadership toward the military. This also reveals that the people's army is more of a private military of Kim rather the military of the party.

In 1969, Kim directly carried out the large-scale purging of the military, thus completely establishing the system of the party controlling the military. At that time, Kim strengthened the party committee of the People's Army, and subordinated the military to the Workers' Party of Korea by making it so that all orders came into effect after it was signed by the Political Committee, that a committee of the political leadership was established even down to the lowest echelon of the unit, and that the party secretariat take charge of the military cadres.

Since then, the party and military showed no distinction in its concept in North Korea's power structure. The party and military became a unitary power body in which the party and military mutually carry out personnel changes.

Systematically, according to Chapter Three, Article 27 of the party regulation, Kim Il-song holds the position of party general secretary and chairman of the Military Commission. Therefore, he has command of deciding on the method to execute military policy, of organizing work to carry out the war industry and strengthening forces, and of guiding the military capabilities.

Also, according to Article 93 of the socialist constitution, he commands and assumes all the leadership as the president of the political regime, supreme commander of the overall forces, and as chairman of the Military Commission.

Since the military system is concentrated on only one person, Kim Il-song, North Korea's military system performed the duty of a landlord upholding the one-man dictatorial system. Therefore, on the contrary, if Kim dies, the military becomes a potential element in moving forward to oppose the military or as a force to carry out reform. This is the very reason North Korea is mostly cautious about the military in the succession of power between father and son Kim.

Recently, due to the spread of the domino phenomena taking place in communist bloc countries, the North's military has been regarded as the almost unitary potential organization to carry out reform and a force to substitute Kim Chong-il because there is no organizational dissident forces in North Korea. In whatever society, the military is ranked as the most conservative group. However in North Korea, the military is the most

open class. Those who have had the most experience with the outside world in North Korea are soldiers, even more so than students going abroad to study or overseas workers.

Before and after the 25 June War, North Korea sent some 10,000 youths to the Soviet Union to receive intensified military training for three years. Since then, North Korea has been sending on the average, 300-500 mid-level cadres such as captains and majors to military schools in the Soviet Union over a long-term every year. They learn modern military science in the Soviet Union for some years each, who return as 'Sovietized' elite officers. Most of them have a critical perspective of North Korea's one-man dictatorial system and of preparations taking place for the succession of power.

Since 1966 North Korea dispatched some 8,000 military advisory groups to 35 countries in Central and South America, Africa, and the Asian region. The soldiers have the most access to our side's broadcasts to the North around the Military Demarcation Line. One high-ranking U.S. Government source said that recently a large number of North Korean soldiers are showing dissatisfaction over the fact that soldiers were committed to civilian construction sites, that they ardently desire the import of up-to-date weapons from the Soviet Union, that they are leaning toward the Soviet Union, and that they are angry over the fact that people are being made to worship father and son Kim.

Foreign news agencies reported from Pyongyang in April of last year, quoting sources there, that in 1986 and 1987, soldiers opposing Kim Il-song attempted to assassinate him on two occasions. The first attempt was in December 1986, just before rumors that Kim had passed away, and the second attempt was in May 1987, when they tried to shoot Kim near Sinuiju, who was on his way home by special train right after visiting Beijing. At that time, one body guard was killed after being shot by the gun originally aimed at Kim. This foreign news agency also reported that right after this incident, five high-ranking military cadres defected to China because they were involved.

In December 1987, there was a major accident in which a troop train from China loaded with explosives and cannon balls exploded, which was on its way to Yongpyon via Hwasun, North Hamgyong province, killing 120 people and injuring 5,000 people. There were rumors that this was sabotaged by circles opposing Kim Chong-il.

One source by a Soviet authority familiar with recent trends revealed, "The Soviet Union which has influence over North Korea's military is observing with much interest the North Korean military in accordance with changes taking place in North Korea." He also said, "The Soviet Union expects that there are possibilities for North Korea to carry out a military rebellion such as Romania's. Therefore, they are worried over how to adjust their policies on pressuring North Korea to open up and on the role of North Korea's military." North Korean experts in Japan anticipate that if there is a vacant place in the position of power due to anti-Kim Chong-il rebellion by the military, figures to substitute Kim Chong-il may be O Chin-u, minister of the People's Armed Forces or Kim Pyong-il, Kim Chong-il's half brother.

In the finishing work of succeeding Kim Chong-il to power which is expected to take place in two years, what is being emphasized most of all is the work to control the military. Already concrete preparations are being carried out. Examples of this was a meeting of the cadres of the people's army which was held in December of last year in Pyongyang to strengthen the political and ideological work by the soldiers of the younger faction and making all the military units throughout North Korea carry out the promise to be loyal to Kim Chong-il on his birthday last February. Recently in North Korea a survey on the trend of the soldiers throughout the whole military have been carried out.

Seoul Calls on Pyongyang To Resume Talks

SK2704060690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0511 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 27 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea proposed to North Korea Friday [27 Apr] that discussions to arrange talks between high-level authorities be held May 22 at the border truce village of Panmunjom.

Song Han-ho, senior South Korean delegate to the preliminary meeting on the talks, said in a telephone message to his northern counterpart, Pak Nam-chun, he hoped the high-level government authorities could meet before Aug. 15, the 45th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese rule.

"The two Koreas should no longer suspend dialogue for any reason," said Song, who is also vice national unification minister.

All forms of inter-Korean dialogue, including the preliminary meeting, which was supposed to be held March 7, were suspended when North Korea announced it would not to take part in any talks during the annual Korea-U.S. "Team Spirit" military exercise.

North Should Guarantee Safe Return of Visitors

SK2604024890 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 26 Apr 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Guarantee of Family Reunion"]

[Text] Keen interest is being paid to the likelihood that a South Korean, Han Pil-song, who early last month met his speed skater-turned North Korean coach sister during the latest winter Asian Games held in the northern Japanese city of Sapporo, will be able to achieve his long-cherished aspiration to visit Pyongyang for a reunion with his aged mother there.

The visit by him, to be accompanied by his wife, now slated for early next month, has been authorized by our government only if their visit and safe return to the South are guaranteed by Pyongyang.

Han reportedly plans to go to the North via the truce village of Panmunjom driving his Korando for a seven-day stay. Formally, he received a letter from his younger sister inviting him and his wife on April 19 in response to his earnest wish to meet his aged mother, who reportedly lives at her daughter's house in Pyongyang, before she dies, possibly within some years.

Our government has simultaneously allowed two other Seoul citizens and Korean clergymen residing in the United States to visit the North. However, their actual visit to the North depends on Pyongyang's guarantee of their safety while in the North, and their safe return to the South.

First of all, the North Korean authorities must respect the wishes of those who plan to visit the North for family reunions according to the ideals of humanitarianism or the Red Cross spirit so as to safeguard them during their stay and allow them a safe return to their present homes in Seoul and the United States.

However, it is distressing to learn that Han's sister in the North said in her letter to her brother that he and his wife should live with his aged mother in the North if and when he comes to Pyongyang, giving up the idea of returning to the South, so as to perform his filial duty as the eldest son of serving his aged mother, if belatedly.

She was also reported to have distorted her feelings and made a false testimony with regard to her emotional first meeting with her brother in Sapporo in four decades during her press conference held in Pyongyang upon her return from Japan.

In view of this political manipulation by Pyongyang, there is a suspicion that Pyongyang will try to use Han's visit to the North for another round of political propaganda and even attempt to force the visitors to stay in the North as defectors.

If Pyongyang really wants to promote humanitarian family reunions between the South and North, it should also allow the aged mother and other family members in the North to come to the South at the invitation of their dispersed family members in the South.

In fact, our government stand is to permit not only family reunion but also all kinds of inter-Korean exchanges, including those of religious, cultural, academic, sports and journalistic figures. On the other hand, North Korea has yet to take such reciprocal actions as to meet these moves.

Han's visit to the North, if realized next month, will become an epoch-making event as it will be the first case of a private individual visiting the North directly via Panmunjom for a family reunion, marking a breakthrough in inter-Korean personal exchanges, since the division of the country in 1945 at the end of World War II.

To recall, all formal inter-Korean dialogues have been virtually suspended by Pyongyang since its undue taking of issue with Team Spirit, the defensive Korea-U.S. military exercise, and the series of illegal and secret visits to the North by Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, opposition lawmaker So Kyong-won and coed student Yim Su-kyong.

Our northern policy, which was first made public by President No Tae-u in his July 7 Declaration in 1988, has generally paid off in improving relations with the Soviet Union and other East European countries as well as Beijing to some extent. But it is deplorable to see no tangible changes in the inter-Korea relationship, mainly due to Pyongyang's sustained closed-door policy.

The North Korean authorities will hopefully show sincerity from the humanitarian viewpoint to guarantee Han and other South Koreans' safe visits for family reunions in the North, clearly casting off its hackneyed ploy of capitalizing on personal contacts for political propagandism.

Kim Il-song Reportedly Applauds Olympic Song

SK2704041290 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 27 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] North Korea's supreme leader Kim Il-song rose to his feet and applauded when Czech performers ended their acrobatic performance to the tune of "Hand in Hand." Meantime, it was not known whether or not Kim knew "Hand in Hand" was the theme song of the Seoul Olympics which North Korea boycotted.

The show was part of a program in celebration of the 78th birthday of Kim, held on April 14 on the eve of Kim's turning 78. This fact was confirmed as an intelligence agency has obtained a video-tape of the show.

According to informed sources, the man who emceed the show said the program was televised live throughout North Korea.

Lawyers Invite Northern Colleagues to Seoul

SK2704031490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0157 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Beijing, April 27 (YONHAP)—South and North Korean lawyers attending an international law conference met Thursday [26 April] in a Beijing restaurant and the Southerners officially invite their Northern colleagues to attend a conference of the presidents of Asian bar associations in Seoul next year.

The South Korean delegates to the 14th conference on the law of the world, which opened Monday [23 April], proposed exchanges of lawyers to ease tension on the peninsula, and the North Korean delegates said they

would consider the matter positively and make a reply in detail on the exchange through the hotline at the truce village at Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone dividing South and North Korea.

Attending the two-hour gathering at a Korean restaurant in downtown Beijing were three South Korean lawyers—including Chong Po-sung, vice chairman of Korean Bar Association—and four North Koreans—including Hyon Hong-san, vice president of North Korea's Central Court.

The South Koreans proposed a conference of South and North Korean and Chinese lawyers in Beijing if the Northerners are unable to participate in the Seoul meet in May next year.

Meanwhile, representatives of the South Korean Justice Ministry will meet with Chinese officials Friday afternoon to seek Chinese participation in the second Asia-Pacific conference of attorneys general this September in Seoul.

North To Hold Pyongyang Cup Soccer Contest

SK2604025290 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 26 Apr 90 p 12

[Text] North Korea will host its first soccer tournament with cash awards this summer, the Yonhap News Agency said yesterday. Yonhap quoted the Kyodo News Agency as reporting that France, Austria and a few other nations will be invited to the summer event, called the Pyongyang Cup.

The inaugural soccer tournament will be held sometime in August, to apparently avoid overlapping with the month-long World Cup in Italy starting in early June, it said. The winner will be awarded a cash prize of $20,000 while both the runner-up and the third place team will pocket $10,000 respectively.

The agency didn't reveal whether Seoul will be invited to the Pyongyang tournament.

North-Soviet Relations Not Expected To 'Worsen'

SK2704070890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0651 GMT 27 Apr 90

[By Kim Tae-sik]

[Text] Seoul, April 27 (OANA-YONHAP)—The relationship between North Korea and the Soviet Union appears to have became uncomfortable when Moscow began its pursuit of perestroyka, but recently the two old friends seem distinctly frosty toward each other, observers here say.

The observers note that the chasm between the two allies that has been spotted in articles critical of each other in the news media has widened, as shown in Moscow's reduction of its supply of crude oil to North Korea and Pyongyang's hardline response in denying Soviet reporters access to government officials and restricting activities of Soviet diplomats in the capital.

Aleksandr Zhebin, Pyongyang Bureau chief for the Soviet news agency TASS, recently wrote in PRAVDA that the North Korean authorities had refused all requests by Soviet reporters to meet government officials for the last two months and that the Soviet reporters "are in a very strange position."

The restrictions on Soviet journalists were imposed after several reports critical of North Korea appeared in Soviet news media, Zhebin claimed in his article in the Soviet Communist Party organ.

On Tuesday [24 April], the conservative British newspaper the DAILY TELEGRAPH reported that North Korea was restricting the activities of East-bloc and Soviet diplomats.

The worsening relations between the two countries were chiefly attributed the new-found freedom of the Soviet media to freely criticize North Korea's rigid dictatorship, which contrasts sharply with perestroyka.

Earlier this year, Soviet reformist weekly magazine "ARGUMENT AND FACT" reported that the whole of North Korea was a museum dedicated to North Korean leader Kim Il-song and that economic data and claims of achievements made by Pyongyang were totally false.

The magazine said Kim's partisan struggle against Japanese rule was waged as head of a guerrilla unit and that he was a captain in the Soviet Army, a much less flattering portrait than that painted by Kim's minions.

In an editorial in the April 6 issue of NODONG SINMUN, the Workers (Communist) Party Organ, North Korea indirectly criticized Moscow's approach to Seoul. The North Korean paper said it was unimaginable that the Soviet Union, the first nation to recognize North Korea as the sole legitimate government on the Korean peninsula, would side with the two Korea policy by breaking basic principles and recognizing South Korea.

The editorial was regarded as an unprecedented criticism of Moscow by Pyongyang, although indirect, and as an expression of strong discontent by the Pyongyang authorities. Pyongyang finds it hard to make outspoken criticism of Moscow, which has provided it with substantial economic and military assistance.

In addition, the Soviet Union has reduced its crude oil supply to North Korea since last November for unknown reasons. Some observers interpret it as pressure on Pyongyang for opening and reform while the others say it was due to Moscow's economic problems.

Following the indirect criticism in the editorial, Pyongyang has been heightening its expressions of discontent.

North Korea did not invite any Soviet officials to events marking Kim Il-song's birthday April 15 and is restricting the activities of Soviet reporters and diplomats.

North Korea intensified its expression of dissatisfaction with Moscow because Pyongyang's leaders are worried that perestroyka, which hastened the collapse of communist dictatorships in Eastern Europe, could endanger the North Korean system and because of moves by Moscow to normalize relations with Seoul, Pyongyang's archrival since the end of World War II.

The observers say, however, relations between the communist allies will not worsen further because both are still in need of each other diplomatically and do not want relations to collapse.

North Students Studying in USSR Withdrawn

SK2704051890 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 27 Apr 90 p 2

[YONHAP from Hong Kong]

[Text] On 26 April, FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW of Hong Kong reported that North Korea withdrew its students studying in the Soviet Union right after the Korean Air flight service was opened between Seoul and Moscow in March.

REVIEW said that, because North Korea summoned its students from Eastern Europe at the end of last year after South Korea established diplomatic ties with East European countries, China is the only socialist country from which North Korea has not withdrawn its students.

Strains in DPRK-USSR Relations Reviewed

SK2604022290 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 26 Apr 90 p 2

[By staff reporter Pak Mu-chong]

[Text] The long comradeship between the Soviet Union and North Korea has been showing sign of strain since perestroyka and glasnost.

Signs are that Moscow and Pyongyang have become estranged from each other. The sour relationship between the two is proved, for one thing, by Moscow's devaluation of the so-called "great leader," Kim Il-song who goes against the trend of the time of openness and change.

The mass media of the Communist superpower drew attention of the world these days by openly criticizing the personality cult of Kim Il-song in North Korea.

The Soviet Union, the undisputed patron of North Korea for 40 years, has come up with an unusual attitude toward its friend of long standing, showing an unprecedented cool reaction to this year's 78th birthday of Kim and disclosing Kim's real history.

North Korea's revolutionary history glorifies Kim as an "independence fighter against the Japanese colonial rule who carried out decisive anti-Japanese campaign and won independence from Japan. But, an influential Soviet weekly, "Argument and Fact," reported in its latest edition that Kim was nothing but a Soviet army captain who commanded a partisan unit.

The weekly also joked about the idolization of Kim Il-song in the most isolated socialist country on the globe, calling North Korea a "Kim Il-song museum." It reported that Kim's portraits and statues coated in gold and silver are seen "everywhere" and its people believe they are living in the happiest country in the world thanks to the benevolence of their "great leader."

The magazine, then, warned that Kim should take a good lesson from the fate of former Romanian president Nicolae Ceausescu. Pointing out that "however, reality is not so sweet," the weekly diagnosed that the (North Korean) people are suffering from a shortage of food, medicines and other basic materials, and as a result, their discontent and disbelief in the government are growing fast.

The state-run Moscow Radio also showed naked criticism of Kim and his son Chong-il in its report on the recent uncontested election to form the ninth-term Supreme People's Assembly (something like parliament). Political analysts in Seoul interpret Moscow's devaluation of Kim as a virtual warning against Kim's outdated dictatorship and the deification of himself.

The Soviet Union which ignited the wave of reform and openness in East European socialist countries with perestroyka is apparently changing its policy toward North Korea.

The latest improvement in Moscow-Seoul relations speaks for what the ties between Moscow and Pyongyang are like.

An account by a renowned Soviet historian highlighted the changing situation. The Moscow Radio broadcast an interview with the noted scholar, Mikhail Smirnov Friday [20 Apr]. In the radio interview, Smirnov said that the Korean War (1950-1953) was the work of the North against South on June 25.

For the surprise attack, the North had long beefed up its military power since the national liberation from the Japanese colonial rule in 1945, the radio quoted the historian as saying. He also revealed that Kim Il-song visited Moscow to meet Stalin just before the outbreak of the war, and he believes Kim's meeting with Stalin helped fan his adventurism.

It was the first time Moscow Radio has made such a broadcast about who triggered the tragic war on the Korean peninsula.

The radio also quoted Smirnov as urging the South and the North to resume dialogue as soon as possible, pointing out that the Korean War "is a good lesson that

no conflict can be solved through military means." Smirnov's remarks are different from what the Soviet Union has maintained with regard to the Korean War. According to the Naewoe Press in Seoul specializing in North Korean affairs and Communist bloc affairs, Smirnov is a promising scholar on Korean peninsula.

Soviets Concerned About Moscow Trip Dispute

SK2704032490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0256 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Moscow, April 27 (YONHAP)—The Soviet Union has been embarrassed by fighting between South Korean politicians over a trip they made to Moscow and is keen to know how the feud is developing, the top-ranked Korean diplomat here said Thursday [26 April].

Kong No-myong, chief of South Korea's consular mission in Moscow, told YONHAP correspondents that Soviet officials had expressed concern about a dispute that erupted between ruling party co-leader Kim Yong-sam and Pak Chol-on, who resigned as first state minister for political affairs as a result.

Kong said the Kremlin gave Kim's meeting with President Mikhail Gorbachev a high rating.

"I heard the Soviet Foreign Ministry commended the Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO) for inviting the Korean politician," he said.

The Soviets have also sent to the South Korean mission a protest note demanding clarification of reports of a break-in at the Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Seoul on April 23, Kong said.

"They seemed to be shocked at the news that a burglar or burglars had scattered documents on the floor of the office," he said.

Asked to comment on the rumored establishment of Soviet-South Korean diplomatic ties this year, Kong said he could not set a date.

"Under the present circumstances, I think it will take some time. The Soviet Government seems rather cool when discussing the bilateral relationship and firmly takes a step-by-step approach. We can't expect a miracle, but we can take steps gradually," he said.

Kong said some Soviet officials opposed early establishment of diplomatic ties with Seoul and others supported it, but the general impression of Korea had improved since last year. "The Soviet Union has already made a political decision to develop ties with the Republic of Korea. What matters is time. The Soviets believe economic cooperation should come before political relations, whereas we believe political ties can back up economic cooperation," Kong said.

"The Soviet Union seems to have departed from the old stance of unilaterally supporting North Korea. Criticism of Pyongyang often appears these days, particularly among the news media. I don't think the government is leading the press to criticize North Korea. Rather, such a tendency reflects the promotion of press freedom."

He added that the two governments might discuss a meeting between their foreign ministers or presidents next month, when a South Korean delegation visits Moscow.

"Common sense tells me a summit meeting will be possible after the two countries set up diplomatic ties. But I can't completely rule out the possibility of a summit before such ties," he said.

Asked if he would meet the North Korean ambassador to the Soviet Union, Kong said, "I have no plans. There are open channels for inter-Korean dialogue already."

Hungarian Tobacco Committee Delegation Visits

SK2604032890 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 26 Apr 90 p 6

[Text] A four-member delegation from Hungary's Tobacco Industry Committee, led by Daman Laszro, flew to Seoul Tuesday for a week-long visit at the request of the Korea Tobacco & Ginseng Corp. (KTGC).

During his stay here, Laszro met with Hong Tu-pyo, president of the KTGC, to discuss matters on the technology tie-up and the corporation's exports of leaf tobacco and red ginseng to Hungary, a company spokesman said yesterday.

DPRK Reportedly Proposes Improved Japan Ties

SK2704051490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 27 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Tokyo (AFP)—North Korea has proposed to improve its strained ties with Japan through three stages of talks, a Tokyo newspaper reported Thursday. But the Japanese Foreign Ministry denied it had received such a proposal.

The newspaper Sankei Shimbun said the proposal was conveyed by a North Korean scholar, who is close to North Korean President Kim Il-song, to the Japanese government side when he visited here from Feb. 10 to March 2.

In the absence of diplomatic ties, Tokyo-Pyongyang relations have been deadlocked as two Japanese seamen have been in a North Korean prison since late 1983 on spying charges denied by Japanese.

The scholar is Kim Myong-u, charged with international relations at the Academy of Chuche Science, who is a relative of the president, Sankei said. "Chuche" is president Kim's all-embracing dogma of self-reliance.

"We are aware that the person in question has visited here," said an official at the ministry's Northeast Asian Affairs Division. "but the ministry has not received the reported proposal."

Japan, which colonized the whole of Korea from 1910 to 1945, has no diplomatic ties with North Korea but has built up close political and economic links with South Korea.

The newspaper said the proposal called for secret talks in Japan or North Korea between an influential Japanese lawmaker and Hwang Chang-yop, a former chairman of the standing committee of the Supereme People's Assembly.

They would be joined by Foreign Ministry officials in the second round in a third country in August, followed by "open" government-level talks involving foreign ministers or ruling party leaders, the newspaper said.

Hasty Agreement on Koreans in Japan Feared

SK2704072490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0607 GMT 27 Apr 90

[By Kim Hung-su]

[Text] Seoul, April 27, (YONHAP)—South Korean and Japanese officials are making a last minute spurt in the race to complete negotiations on the status of Koreans in Japan before it affects plans for president No Tae-u to visit Tokyo in May, but some analysts here caution that a hasty agreement may only bandage old wounds instead of healing them.

Foreign Ministry officials say the two governments have narrowed their differences in opinion on Tokyo's treatment of Koreans and will seek further agreement in talks between their Foreign Ministers on Monday [30 April].

The officials broadly hinted that No's visit will go ahead in May, predicting a major agreement would come out of the talks.

But analysts well-versed in Korea-Japan relations say that while the Korean Government may be pleased that the Japanese have picked up the pace, the Korean public will be none too happy.

Japanese concessions disclosed at a senior officials' meeting Thursday [26 April] included future exemption for third-generation Koreans from fingerprinting and replacement of alien registration cards by another identification system.

The Japanese officials also revealed a plan to extend the period of re-entry permits to five years from the present two and to raise the grounds for deportation from a seven-year jail term to over 10 years or conviction on anti-state charges. They said further improvement in the legal status of Koreans residing in Japan will be offered in Monday's talks.

Analysts say, however, that Tokyo's offers so far are insufficient to appease the discontent of Koreans both at home and abroad.

The Japanese plan to exempt third-generation Koreans from the fingerprinting requirement is absurd, analysts say, since those Koreans will be subject to fingerprinting only after 15 years as they are just now being born.

Replacement of the alien registration card by another device may also trigger Korean protests because it will not distinguish Koreans from other resident foreigners and this is one of the complaints about the alien registration card.

The Japanese proposals would apply to approximately 330,000 of the 675,000 Korean residents in Japan since the "agreement on the legal status of Korean residents in Japan" included in the 1965 Korea-Japan normalization treaty only covers Koreans with South Korean citizenship.

Although 90 percent of the remainder are North Koreans their exclusion may kindle protests among all Koreans, who increasingly take a one-Korea position on pre-liberation matters. The Korean peninsula was liberated from Japanese colonial rule at the end of World War II in 1945, but divided into the capitalist South and the communist North.

The others, many of whom went to Japan after the end of World War II, are excluded from the 1965 treaty for various reasons.

A superficial remedy may only provoke stronger feelings among Koreans, the analysts warn, citing law suits filed by Korean atomic bomb victims against the Japanese Government for 2.3 billion U.S. dollars in compensation.

They say the families of Koreans who were forcedly drafted to Japan during the war are planning a collective action against the Japanese Government, further straining bilateral relations.

Under these circumstances, No's trip to Japan may cause an eruption of Koreans' unhappy feelings about the Japanese unless it is preceded by some substantial improvement in the status of Koreans living there, they say.

No's Visit Linked to Residents' Issue Confirmed

SK2704093390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0821 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 27 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung confirmed Friday that President No Tae-u could call off a planned trip to Japan unless substantial progress is made in talks here Monday with his Japanese counterpart on the issue of Koreans in Japan.

Choe said that he and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama will discuss the legal status of Koreans residing in Japan, financial support for Korean atomic bomb victims and Koreans in Sakhalin, and other historic matters in their talks here.

Choe told reporters the talks would be important for settling the issue of the legal status of Korean residents in Japan.

"I understand that the Japanese side has come to feel the need for a political resolution after all of the intergovernmental negotiations and the visit of Pak Tae-chun, acting co-leader of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, to Tokyo," he said.

No's visit to Japan, unofficially scheduled for late May, should be an occasion to clear away the detritus of "unfortunate events" in history, Choe said.

Also on the agenda will be cooperation in the field of ultramodern technologies, expansion of human, cultural and academic exchanges, and promoting bilateral ties in regional and international forums.

The Japanese delegation will arrive here Sunday and leave May 2, after paying courtesy calls on No and Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun.

UN Membership Request Delayed for Fear of Veto

SK2704061690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0452 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] New York, April 26 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea will not seek admission to the United Nations this year to avoid a veto by the Soviet Union and China, allies of North Korea, Vice Foreign Minister Yu Chong-ha said Thursday [27 Apr].

"We see the atmosphere as having matured for our admission to the United Nations, but we judge that it would be better not to put in a bid for entry since the Soviet Union and China, because of their relations with North Korea, may exercise their veto rights," Yu told Korean reporters after meeting here with UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The Korean vice foreign minister also said he is sure that most member nations of the world body, including those from Eastern Europe, support South Korea's bid for UN membership.

He said the government will make efforts to lay the groundwork for joining the world organization even though it will not seek admission this year.

During his meeting with Cuellar, Yu said, he asked the top UN official to cooperate in inducing Pyongyang to end its isolation.

"Korea is a very important nation in international society, and I will make efforts for the admission of both Koreas to the United Nations," Yu quoted Cuellar as saying.

Ministry Announces Beef Accord With U.S.

SK2704095790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0926 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 27 (YONHAP)—South Korea and United States have finalized their negotiations on imports of American beef by signing a formal accord in Washington, the Foreign Ministry here announced Friday.

Korean Ambassador to Washington Pak Tong-chin and U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills signed the agreement Friday, ending a trade dispute between the two nations that had been negotiated since February last year.

Both sides agreed on Seoul's opening of the market for U.S. beef in Washington on March 21 at the close of a three-day talk.

The agreement stipulates that Seoul will gradually increase beef import quotas between 1990 and 1992 while Washington will give up its call for Seoul's presentation of a market opening timetable by July 1997 as recommended by the balance of payments committee of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The two sides have also agreed to form a joint inspection team by May 1, 1991, to look into the Korean livestock industry.

The final accord enabled korea to avoid retaliatory trade measures under section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act and put an end to arguments in the GATT panel dealing with beef imports, a ministry official said.

Pak Chol-on Begins 'Private' Overseas Trip

SK2704015090 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 27 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] Pak Chol-on, former first state minister for political affairs, left here for Tokyo yesterday for a 20-day overseas tour which will take him to Japan, the United States, Egypt and East European countries.

Pak, who resigned from the cabinet ministerial post last month in the wake of the intraparty feud involving Kim Yong-sam and himself, told reporters at Kimpo International Airport that his trip has nothing to do with any specific government mission but is purely "private."

On the eve of his departure Wednesday, a group of ruling party lawmakers invited Pak to a Seoul restaurant to wish him bon voyage.

Among them were Reps. Sim Myong-po, Yi Cha-hon, Pak Hui-tae and Na Chang-chu.

National Security Law Ruling Implications Viewed

SK2604071690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0635 GMT 26 Apr 90

[News analysis by Kim Hung-suk]

[Text] Seoul, April 26 (YONHAP)—A struggle in the South Korean judiciary to maintain an independent yet conservative stand on the nation's anti-communist laws was showcased with the ruling Wednesday of the Seoul Appellate Court in the appeal of Rep. So Kyong-won against his conviction on charges of visiting North Korea without government permission.

The appeals court reduced the lawmaker's prison term from 15 years to 10 but upheld his conviction on charges of espionage and violation of the National Security Law.

Most other charges brought by the prosecution, which demanded life imprisonment, against the former farmer and his sympathizers were also supported by the court, which was accused of being too slow to change in regard to ideological cases.

The court dismissed So's claim that his visit to the North originated from "an innocent aspiration for reunification of the fatherland," though it also rejected the prosecution's claim that So was "a typical North Korean agent."

Presiding Judge Yun Chae-sik said in the ruling Wednesday that So deserved harsh punishment because he had shocked the people by contacting Pyongyang even before the government initiated a policy of rapprochement with communist nations July 7 last year and by meeting North Korean leader Kim Il-song and taking money from him.

Yun supported the government's definition of state secrets as not only military secrets but also freely available information that can be useful to North Korea.

As for the claim by So and his secretary, Pang Yang-kyun, who was sentenced to seven years in jail, that they had been tortured during interrogation, the court took the government line even as it acknowledged the allegation was true.

"It is admitted that the prosecution interrogated the defendants continuously without returning them to their cells, but the use of different procedures and methods of interrogation applied in this case are insufficient to prove that the defendants confessed involuntarily," the court ruled.

The court took a similar attitude on the prosecution's refusal to allow meetings between the defendants and their attorneys, which caused a stir in the National Assembly last year.

"It can't be said that the prosecution damaged the purpose of the meeting between the defendants and counsel substantially by limiting questions and stopping the meeting," Senior Judge Yun said.

He said the prosecution's actions on July 22 last year, during So's meeting with his lawyers, was understandable as its only purpose was to prevent So from "covering up his crime" and the lawyers from putting leading questions to their client.

Yun said, however, that some of the evidence presented by the prosecution was unacceptable because it was obtained after So was denied access to his lawyers.

As for the argument that punishing people for failing to report information to the authorities was unconstitutional, Yun said: "Freedom of conscience may be restricted by law. It is not against the Constitution to impose a special duty on people under the special situation of confrontation with North Korea."

The court reaffirmed its conservativism in relation to ideological laws but exposed its attempt to objectively determine the secrecy of the information So passed to North Korea.

Ruling that the information handed to Kim Il-song and other Pyongyang officials was unimportant in terms of national security, the court reduced So's jail term by five years.

Stephen Cardinal Kim Su-hwan took the witness stand, but the court made no reference in its ruling to the detailed testimony of the Catholic prelate. This was seen as an attempt to deny speculation that his unprecedented appearance may have affected the judge's decision.

The controversial case now goes to the Supreme Court for a ruling that will serve as a precedent for other cases involving unauthorized contact with North Koreans.

Former DJP Official Returns From U.S. Stay

SK2704030890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0144 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 27 (YONHAP)—A former general who helped former President Chon Tu-hwan take power a decade ago returned from 22 months in the United States on Thursday [26 April] afternoon.

Kwon Chung-tal ostensibly returned to take care of his wife, who is in bad health, but it is suspected the real purpose is different.

Kwon said he will stay for a month, and then return to the United States for two or three months before coming back permanently.

He left for the United States on June 26, 1988, when the prosecution began to investigate people suspected of misdeeds such as abuse of power under Chon's rule and is thought to have been at the Hoover Institute of Stanford University, California.

Dissidents had called for Kwon, who allegedly masterminded the compulsory integration of the mass media and a purge of hundreds of reporters in 1980, to be summoned to Seoul for testimony in front of the National Assembly special panel on infringement of the freedom of the press.

Echoing the dissidents' call, the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy urged the government Friday to

get to the bottom of the real picture of the alleged press suppression by reopening the National Assembly hearing.

Kwon was the first secretary general of the Democratic Justice Party [DJP], formed by Chon in 1981.

Probe of Chon Era Reopens With Witness' Return

SK2704074490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0729 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 27 (OANA-YONHAP)—The prosecution has decided to reopen its investigation into perjury charges filed against former Senior Presidential Secretary Ho Mun-to as a critical witness returned to South Korea on Thursday [26 April].

A ban on Kwon Chong-tal traveling abroad again will be sought, if necessary, after the prosecution determines the reasons for his sudden departure in May 1988 to the United States and learns whether he intends to leave the country again. Kwon went to the United States when investigations into former President Chon Tu-hwan's rule began.

Won Chong-il, the prosecutor in charge of investigating Ho' indictment by the National Assembly Education and Information Committee in March 1989, said Friday: "The indictment, which was suspended due to Kwon's absence, will be concluded only after we have questioned Kwon.

"Kwon must be the one who holds the key to the case, though he has not been sued by the National Assembly in connection with the the compulsory integration of the mass media and a purge of hundreds of reporters in 1980."

Ho was quoted by Won as telling him during questioning, "It is true that I took the leading role in the integration of the mass media, but it is not that I was directly involved in the layoffs of reporters."

Based upon Ho's statement, the prosecution decided to suspend its indictment of Kwon in June 1989.

In November 1989, the association of dismissed journalists filed a complaint with the prosecution against five people, including Kwon and Ho, on charges of power abuse in the massive dismissal of reporters, but the prosecution took no action because Kwon was abroad.

DLP Leadership System Leaves No 'in Charge'

SK2704081690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0305 GMT 27 Apr 90

["No Wins Full Control of Government Party, Clips Kim's Wings"—YONHAP headline]

[Text] Seoul, April 27 (OANA-YONHAP)—Lingering discord over control of South Korea's ruling party appeared to abate Thursday as top party leaders basically agreed that President No Tae-u would be in charge.

No, Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil, the three co-leaders of the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), agreed to set up a leadership system that empowers the party president, a position No is sure to take in a national party convention slated for May, with full control of the party.

Kim Yong-sam, a lifelong oppositionist until he joined No and Kim Chong-pil in merging their parties into the DLP in February, will head a supreme leadership council under No. He will carry the title party chairman and be charged with managing the party on the basis of a consensus among members of the leadership council.

The agreement gives No control of party affairs in close consultation with the leadership council, which will have no more than five members—the two Kims, Pak Tae-chun, a leading national figure and a woman.

It also means No has full control over DLP affairs and Kim has limited power, which may reflect No's intention to clip the wings of the former opposition leader, whose followers demand Kim be party boss after No's term ends in reward for joining the "grand conservative alliance," political sources said.

The new leadership format seems to have required a concession by Kim, who had reportedly demanded virtual control of the party while No took care of the administration. But sources say there may have been tacit understanding between No and the Kims that Kim Yong-sam, in return for his concession, will succeed No as party president after general elections in 1992 or after No's single five-year term as president expires in 1993. In that case, Kim Yong-sam is expected to be well placed to seek the office of president of Korea.

Even though the leadership agreement fell far short of Kim Yong-sam's demand, the possibility of a tacit agreement or understanding with No was evident when Kim expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of the meeting.

"I am satisfied with all issues discussed," he said.

The three leaders also agreed to head up efforts to wipe out factionalism and to foster party unity, an apparent show of will to bring an end to fighting for control of the party among the three largest DLP factions, based on the three parties in the merger.

'Hard Line' Reaffirmed in Industrial Disputes

SK2704094090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0904 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 27 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government reaffirmed a hard line on industrial disputes and proclaimed firm implementation of economy boosting measures Friday.

The government will be consistent in its economic policies so the public can have trust in their rulers, President No Tae-u told a high-level economic officials

meeting which discussed pressing economic issues such as stock market plunge, real estate speculation and strikes.

Deputy Prime Minister Yi Sung-yun, Finance Minister Chong Yong-ui, Trade and Industry Minister Pak Pil-su and Labor Affairs Minister Choe Yong-chol were present.

The government, hoping to stimulate the economy, announced a package April 4 that included postponement of the real-name financial transaction system, additional distribution of special facility loans of 1 trillion won (1.4 billion U.S. dollars) and a crackdown on real estate speculation.

The direction of the national economy depends on settlement of the industrial peace, No said.

Economic polices should be put into practice with determination in the belief that stable relations between management and workers can help the economy next year, he said.

The government will curb pay raises in order to keep inflation below 5-6 percent (the predicted rate is 7-8 percent) and demonstrate that illegal labor actions will incur rigid application of the law, No said.

The administration is expected to urge business groups to sell non-business purpose land they own now.

The government will soon announce the result of an inter-ministry investigation into the real estate assets held by by large companies in an effort to discourage them from owning excessive amounts of land. The government will start a second-phase investigation shortly, according to government officials.

The government expects to work out ways to beef up financial aid to manufacturers in order to revitalize their businesses and boost their competitive edge.

Police Attack on Strikers Appears 'Imminent'

SK2704094190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0831 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Ulsan, Korea, April 27 (OANA-YONHAP)—A strike-busting police raid on South Korea's largest shipyard appeared imminent Friday as more than 10,000 workers faced off against 18,000 riot troops poised outside Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. in the southeastern industrial city of Ulsan.

The atmosphere was tense but calm as strikers reinforced their barricades inside the giant seaside shipyard and prepared steel pipes and firebombs.

Some 20,000 unionized workers downed tools Wednesday, when negotiations failed on the union's demands that management drop its complaint against union leaders filed with the police and carry out provisions of a collective agreement reached earlier.

The government has stood firm against what it calls an illegal strike, warning that the union's action could trigger social unrest and hurt the national economy, which is already in a recession.

While the government is threatening to break up the strike with the police, worries are mounting that police intervention could lead to violent clashes with militant workers and worsen the situation irreversibly.

The government held an emergency meeting to discuss the timing of the anti-strike operation Friday morning and a police commander in Ulsan, about 300 kilometers southeast of Seoul, said they had made full preparations for the military-like action and were only waiting for the order to move in.

Most likely is a pre-dawn attack Saturday by air, sea and ground with helicopters bombing workers with tear gas, fire trucks and bulldozers to clear the barricades, a police officer said.

Workers piled ladders, large bolts, nuts and other steel fixtures onto barriers to seal the shipyard's gates.

Strikers have pitched tents in the shipyard, stockpiled food and laid in supplies of paint thinner, solvents and bottles to make firebombs in preparation for a protracted fight.

The shipyard, which Hyundai claims is the largest in the world, shut down Thursday. Gas and electricity to the yard was shut off Friday and over 4,000 white-collar workers withdrawn.

Management opened a temporary office in an Ulsan Hotel and staff are on the job, concluding international deals with buyers for new ships.

Militant workers wearing helmets and masks and armed with steel pipes were patrolling the shipyard, on the watch for a police attack.

More than 8,000 workers held a rally Friday morning and vowed a "life-or-death fight" against the police while management asked the police to "restore order" to the strike-ridden shipyard.

There are reports of militant students and dissidents flocking to Ulsan to join forces with the strikers.

Both management and union officials said there is little room for a compromise to end the strike.

The giant shipyard, owned by Korea's largest conglomerate, was hit by a bitter 109-day strike that cost it 6 million U.S. dollars a day last year.

The sprawling shipyard covers more than 2 million square meters on the East Sea and is capable of building 14 large ships simultaneously. Sales last year amounted to 1.5 billion dollars.

Meeting Delays Intervention in KBS Strike

SK2704101290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0918 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 27 (YONHAP)—An emergency meeting at the Prime Minister's residence to discuss the strike at the Korea Broadcasting System (KBS) agreed Friday that a change in the strikers' attitudes was evident and decided to watch developments until the evening.

The meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun, was attended by agency for National Security Planning head So Tong-kwon, Home Affairs Minister An Ung-mo, Justice Minister Yi Chong-nam, Labor Affairs Minister Choe Yong-kak, Information Minister Choe Pyong-yol, Presidential Secretary General No Che-pong and Prosecutor General Kim Ki-chun.

Before the discussion began, KBS president So Ki-won said he would seek an early breakthrough through dialogue and asked the government to refrain from intervening in consideration of the "special nature" of the media, a source said.

Attendants agreed that there were considerable changes in the attitudes of KBS employees in some departments, and decided to watch developments until late Friday before deciding whether to send in the police, according to the source.

Meanwhile, the KBS board of editors Friday morning urged "unconditional" normalization of broadcasting. They said in a statement, titled "Our Resolution," that all KBS staff should immediately return to work because they have "proved their will to democratize broadcasting through their unified actions."

People will not tolerate crippled broadcasting any more, the statement said, calling broadcasting a basic responsibility that cannot be neglected.

"We cannot but lament the prolonged abnormal operation of KBS and the government's position, regardless of the truth, that the situation at KBS could ignite disputes in other businesses," the statement said.

The editors also said they object to police intervention and the government should remember it would by no means help settle the situation.

They stressed that the demands of KBS employees to realize the democratization of broadcasting should be accomplished by all means, adding that they will take common steps for that cause.

Unionized Taxi Drivers To Start Work Slowdown

SK2704023490 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 27 Apr 90 p 3

[Text] Unionized Seoul taxi drivers have decided to stage a work slowdown beginning May 1 in protest against the taxi company management's refusal to adopt the "full salary payment system."

Taxi drivers are also opposed to the taxi companies' decision to implement the "no work, no pay" system.

As methods of their struggle, the unionized cab drivers plan to reduce daily revenue intentionally by operating taxis at normal speed and discontinuing "hapsong," the practice of picking up additional passengers for extra income.

The work slowdown was decided at the general meeting of union leaders Tuesday.

If 22,000 taxis in Seoul participate in the "law-abiding" struggle, commuters using taxis will suffer great inconvenience. At present, taxis are Seoul's major transportation means, carrying a considerable portion of daily commuters.

Unionists have also decided to offer free rides to passengers accompanying children on May 5, the Children's Day as part of their protest scheme.

They plan to hold three mass rallies in Seoul to press their demands beginning May 17.

Since early March, the Seoul taxi drivers trade union has held a series of negotiations with representatives of taxi companies over the scale of wage increase.

Unionized taxi drivers demanded a 17.3 percent wage increase, monthly allowance hike and retraction of the "no work, no pay" principle.

In the collective bargaining, labor and management failed to iron out their differences.

Kia Auto Workers Call Off Planned Strike

SK2704023690 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 27 Apr 90 p 3

[Text] The labor union of Kia Motors Co. reversed their earlier decision to go on strike in a vote of union representatives late Wednesday [25 Apr].

However, the car manufacturing company in Kwangmyong City, Kyonggito, saw only partial operation yesterday because some radical workers refused to work complaining about the compromise.

Kia workers took a day off en masse Wednesday, challenging the management's "no work, no pay" principle. They took the protest action as the management refused to pay workers who missed eight hours of work to attend the labor union's general meeting on April 16.

In a compromise, the management will keep the "no work, no pay" principle in return for giving them a certain amount of money as an allowance aimed at increasing productivity.

The management also agreed to accept the virtual walkout Wednesday as a legal one-day monthly leave and withdraw legal complaints against 14 union leaders.

The management accepted the unionists' demand that the company take no legal action against union activities since April 16.

Foreign Car Poliution Tests To Be Strengthened

SK2704022290 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 27 Apr 90 p 3

[Text] Pollution tests on imported cars will be stepped up soon as some of the foreign made cars have been found to emit excessive exhaust fumes, a spokesman for the Environment Ministry said yesterday.

Since the import of foreign cars was liberalized in July 1987, five cars from such brands as Volvo, Fiat, Jaguar and Renaults were found to violate the ministry-set standards in sample popullation tests, the ministry said.

"Although air pollution caused by imported cars is trivial at present, a recent explosive increase of foreign-made cars is sure to bring about grave effects on the atmosphere," the spokesman said.

To curb the import of low-quality cars, the ministry also decided to subject imported cars to 6,400-kilometer or 80,000-kilometer road tests.

A Volvo, which was tested by the ministry in October last year, emitted 11.25 grams of carbon monoxide per kilometer, five times more than the official limit of 2.11 grams, the ministry said.

But the ministry spokesman said that the emission of hazardous gas from the car didn't result from a fault in mechanism but carelessness in transportation and maintenance.

While transporting those cars, carelessness of car importing companies have caused troubles in the three-way catalyst converter, the oxygen sensor and other electronic control systems, he said.

"Most importing companies are not equipped with devices to check pollution levels because a set of detectors is worth about two billion won," he said.

Of the 3,063 imported cars as of the end of this March, Mercury Sables accounted for 1,446 or 55 percent, followed by Mercedes-Benzes (12 percent) and BMWs (9 percent), the Ministry said.

Travel Money Limit Considered, Outflow Grows

SK2704020490 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 27 Apr 90 p 10

[Text] Korean travellers overseas spent an average of $1,848 this year while foreign travellers to Korea spent an average of $1,291, the Bank of Korea reported.

An increase in the number of Koreans travelling overseas and in the amount of travel expense in recent months has led to the reduction of Korea's travel account surplus to $37 million in the first quarter of this year, compared with $262 million in the same period last year.

In February alone, Korea sustained a deficit of $11 million in its travel account as Korean travellers spent $255 million overseas while foreign travellers in Korea spent $244 million, the BOK said.

In February, the average Korean traveller spent as much as $2,237 during his or her overseas trip while the foreign traveller to Korea spent an average of $1,231.

During the first quarter of this year, a total of 394,000 Koreans went on overseas trips, compared with 270,000 in the same period of last year, a total of 592,000 foreigners visited Korea, compared with 581,000 last year.

As Koreans' overseas travel spending is increasing, the central bank is considering resuming its old practice of having banks specify the total amount of foreign currency each traveller is carrying on his or her passports. A Korean traveller is authorized to spend up to $5,000 in each overseas trip.

Group To Visit Philippines Seeking Partners

SK2704020890 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 27 Apr 90 p 9

[Text] Manila (AFP)—A South Korean business million is to arrive here next week for a four-day visit aimed at finding business partners and boosting exports to the Philippines, it was announced here Wednesday.

The Korean trade mission in Manila said the mission was seeking manufacturing partners in areas such as garments, machinery, plastics, glass, leather and other products.

The million will visit the Philippines from May 2 to May 6, and will meet with government officials and local businessmen.

The Philippines is hoping to attract investors from newly industrialized countries such as South Korea, which may want to relocate here to take advantage of U.S. import privileges accorded to the Philippines.

EEC Imposes Antidumping Duties on TV Sets

SK2704014190 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 27 Apr 90 p 6

[Text] Brussels (AFP)—The European Economic Community has decided to apply permanent antidumping duties of apply permanent antidumping duties of up to 19.6 percent against small South Korean television sets, saying the imports were deliberately underpriced and threatened EEC manufacturers.

The decision—a formality approved by EEC ministers late Wednesday—came six months after the community applied provisional duties against the sets.

According to a 22-month inquiry by the EEC's executive commission, South Korea's EEC sales of the televisions hit 781,000 sets in 1987, for a 12 percent share, thanks to predatory pricing.

Community producers, such as Philips NV of the Netherlands and Thomson SA of France, saw their share plummet from 61 percent to 45 percent in a market that expanded over the three years from four million sets annually to 6.4 million.

Provisional duties of 10.2 percent, 12.3 percent and 13.0 percent were levied against Daewoo, Goldstar and Samsung, who are the biggest Korean exporters to the community. All other South Korean exporters were levied at 19.6 percent.

A commission source said Thursday that the exporters had sought to remove the duties by promising to increase prices, but that the concession did not go far enough in the Community's view.

However, after a further probe, the Community decided to scale back the duties against Goldstar TVs to 10.4 percent and Samsung's to 10.5 percent. The other duties remain unchanged. The duties apply to sets with screens of less than 16 inches (42 centimeters).

Companies Rushing to Middle East Markets

SK2704013490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 27 Apr 90 p 6

[Text] Korea companies are rushing to the Middle East.

Most of Korea's general trading companies have established or will set up branch offices or locally-incorporated companies in the Middle East and have begun direct investment into the countries in the region.

Construction companies have begun to participate in the postwar rehabilitation works in the war-torn countries in the region.

Small and medium industrial companies are planning plant exports to the region.

Lucky-Goldstar International Corp., a trading arm of Lucky-Goldstar Business Group, plans to establish a branch office in Baghdad, Iraq, and a trade-related locally-incorporated company in the United Arab Emirates.

Hyundai International Corp. plans to establish branch office in Iran while Ssangyong and Hyosung are preparing to set up branch offices in Baghdad.

Samsung is negotiating to construct $20 million worth of an oil storage plant in Kuwait and 414 million worth of container facilities.

Hyundai International Corp. last month received a $30 million shipbuilding order from the United Arab Emirates.

Jordan has asked Samsung Co., Hyundai International Corp. and Hyosung Corp. to participate in the construction of power plant facilities worth more than $9 million.

Meanwhile, the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA) plans to dispatch a plant export promotion delegation to the Middle East May 28 for a two-week visit. The mission, to be comprised of representatives from small-and medium-sized companies, will visit Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iran and Libya.

While visiting the four countries, the delegates will take up equipments used for the construction of road, farming took, plastic kitchenware and textile machines.

Daewoo, Lucky-Goldstar, Ssangyong and Daelim are each planning to participate in various construction projects in the Middle East nations, in such fields as petrochemical industries, power plant, and road.

In Iran, Daewoo and Daelim are jointly pushing ahead for a project to build a $300 million oil refining plant and a petrochemical industrial estate.

Yearly Beef Import Quota Agreed With Australia

SK2704013190 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 27 Apr 90 p 6

[Text] Korean and Australia negotiators have agreed that Korea will increase its global beef import quota from 56,500 tons on a customs clearance basis last year to 58,000 tons this year, 62,000 tons in 1991 and 66,000 tons in 1992.

In the third round of beef talks in Seoul April 24-25, Australia demanded that the quota be increased to 75,000 tons this year, said an official at the ministry of Agriculture, forestry and Fisheries yesterday.

Seoul resumed imports of beef in July 1988 under a global quota system years after the plunge in domestic cattle prices in the mid- 1980s. The quota was 14,500 tons for the remainder of 1988.

The two countries agreed that Korea will import 7 percent of the global quota through a simultaneous buying system.

According to statistics at the ministry, Australian beef accounts for 70 percent of the total imported beef, while U.S. beef constitutes 28 percent. The remaining 2 percent is from Canada and New Zealand.

Australia accepted Korea's proposal for the formation of a joint team to look into Korea's "shaky" livestock industry, the official said.

The group comprising leaders of private organizations of the two countries will hold its inaugural meeting in mid-June.

He said that Myong Ui-sik, president of the National Livestock Cooperative Federation, will be named Korean-side chairman of the group.

Australia demanded that Korea present a beef import liberalization schedule by July 1997.

The years-old trade war between Korea and the United States over the highly sensitive beef issue entered a cease-fire in March when they reached an agreement, which is similar to that between Korea and Australia.

The signing took place in Washington Thursday, a ministry official said.

He said Korea will resume talks with New Zealand on imports of beef in mid-May. After negotiations with New Zealand, Korea will submit a report to the GATT Council, he added.

Under an action by the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) in November last year, Korea is to lift restrictions on imports of all commodities by July 1997.

Increase in Oil Imports Reaches 9.9 Percent

SK2704013590 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 27 Apr 90 p 6

[Text] The nation imported $76 million barrels of crude oil in the first quarter, up 9.9 percent over the same period last year, the Ministry of Energy and Resources said yesterday.

Korea's bill for the oil was $1,34 billion, up $390 million from last year, at $17.63 per barrel, up from $13.81, the ministry said.

It said 57 million barrels of crude came from the Middle East, accounting from 75.4 percent of the total or 11.3 percent more than in January-March last year because of the end of the Iran-Iraq war.

Oil from China and Southeast Asia amounted to 17 million barrels, accounting for 22.3 percent, up 15.4 percent owing to rising demand for light oil and low sulfur oil, the ministry said.

Oil imported under long-term contacts increased 13.2 percent to 57.9 percent of the total, encouraged by the government order last May that oil bought on the spot market must be reported.

The government implemented the measure to stabilize oil imports, saying that oil purchased under long-term contracts should account for 60 percent of Korea's oil imports for a stable supply.

External Debt Rising With Poor Exports

SK2704014590 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 27 Apr 90 p 6

[Text] With its external debt on the rise again, Korea is not likely to become a creditor nation this year.

The external debt is expected to continue to increase, at least in the foreseeable future, because of a bad export performance and a curtailed current-account surplus, the Economic Planning Board [EPB] said yesterday.

The rise in the external debt is a turn-around from the past four years in which the nation retired loans from abroad with unfavorable terms.

According to EPB figures, the total foreign debt was recorded at $28,900 million at the end of the February this year, down $530 million from the end of last year.

However, the net debt, or the total debt minus the nation's external assets, rose from $3,010 million at the end of last year to $4,370 million at the end of February.

The $1,360 million increase in the two months mainly resulted from a decrease in the nation's external assets, which include exports on credit, investment abroad and foreign-currency holdings of domestic banks.

The external assets dropped from $26,360 million at the end of last year to $24,490 million at the end of February.

During the same period, the nation paid back $500 million to retire loans from abroad.

The trade deficit was mostly responsible for a $1,870 decrease in the external assets.

The nation had to use its foreign-currency holdings to cover the deficit.

The government had projected Korea would become a creditor nation in 1989.

But the projection was not fulfilled because exports fell short of the target, creating a surplus smaller than anticipated.

The Korea Development Institute recently forecast Korea will have a $1 billion trade deficit this year, which dimmed the possibility that it will become a creditor nation this year.

Imports of Consumer Durables Up 10 Percent

SK2704012790 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 27 Apr 90 p 6

[Text] Imports of consumer durables were up 10 percent in the first quarter over the same period last year, a government report said yesterday.

During the January-March period, imports of durables such as cars, televisions and furniture reached $538 million, the report by the Office of National Tax Administration (ONTA) said.

Imports for re-export were valued at $165 million, or 31 percent of the total, down from the first quarter of last

year when the figure was $252 million, or 51 percent of the total, the report said.

Imports of consumer durables for re-export suffered a 34.5 percent setback in the first quarter, while imports for the domestic market expanded 57.3 percent, showing that Korea is on a spending spree despite its sluggish exports, ONTA said.

Automobile imports increased 3.4-fold to $25 million, while imports of television sets, parts and components racked up a 2.7-fold rise to $8 million.

Furniture imports rose 50 percent to $36 million and merchandise imports—including glassware, porcelain, chinaware, cooking ware and personal accessories—leaped 67.4 percent to $144 million, ONTA said.

Burma

Commission, Danish Envoy Discuss Elections

BK2604151690 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Mr. Mogens Knud Isaksen, ambassador of Denmark to the Union of Myanmar [Burma], visited the Office of the Elections Commission for Multiparty Democratic General Elections at No. 94, Natmauk Road, Bahan Township, Yangon [Rangoon], at 1400 today and called on Commission Chairman U Ba Htay and commission members U Saw Kyar Doe, U San Maung, Saya Chai, and U Kyaw Nyunt. U Aye Maung, secretary of that commission, was also present at the meeting.

Explaining preparations being made for the 27 May multiparty democratic elections, the chairman and members of the commission said they expect preparations to be completed by about 15 May and that only then will the country be ready for elections. Our commission has done everything possible to ensure the elections are free and fair. Today, parliamentary candidates are already campaigning for their political parties. The government has also permitted campaign speeches to be aired on Myanmar radio and television. Hence, the only thing left for the people is to vote for the candidates of their choice on 27 May. The commission chairman said he hopes to make election results public within three weeks after the elections. Sixty percent of the election results are, however, expected to be announced within a week, he added.

Explaining elections in his country, the Danish ambassador said there are 11 political parties in Denmark and at times some difficulties do arise in forming a government. Next, the members of the elections commission and the ambassador held a cordial and frank exchange of views on the elections.

League for Democracy, Peace Speech Delivered

BK2304091190 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1415 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Speech by Daw Mya Yi, wife of detained patron of the League for Democracy and Peace and former Prime Minister U Nu; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] I am Daw Mya Yi, wife of Patron U Nu of the League for Democracy and Peace. I have assumed the post of patron at the request of the leaders and members of the Executive Committee of the League for Democracy and Peace.

Dear voters, since quite a number of parties and organizations have already explained what democracy means, I only wish to deal with the question of peace. There is a good reason why our patron U Nu named our party the League for Democracy and Peace. As you voters already know, there can only be conflict when there is no peace. This means the people will either suffer bodily harm or face the loss of lives. Who are the people that suffer from such misfortunes? They are our husbands, sons, brothers, and relatives. It has been more than 40 years now that we have suffered from such miseries as the loss of our loved ones. I say enough is enough; let us put an end to this and work for peace.

While talking about peace, I can still remember what my husband, U Nu, said. He said: I do not want the Defense Services personnel to be killed or those on the other side to be killed. If only peace is possible, I will do anything—either to walk at the end of the retinue as a follower, carrying whatever I can carry, or if asked to, to walk at the forefront of that retinue. In my own name, I also wish to say that if it will help prevent the killings of husbands, sons, and brothers, I am open to suggestions and am ready to work in any capacity. I will do everything possible with genuine goodwill.

Dear voters, our League for Democracy and Peace has already issued a manifesto concerning our policies on the economy, peasantry, workers, and students and youths. I will therefore not explain these. The main theme I want to discuss is for the voters to unanimously cast their ballots for our candidates. If we are to become the government, we will first deal with the issue of peace. Once peace has been established, we will establish a situation similar to the one of yesteryear when one pyi [4.68 pounds] of rice could be bought for 75 pyas and one viss [3.6 pounds] of oil for three kyats. Once, a housewife could spend just one kyat at the market to fill her basket. Today, 100 kyats will not buy much, and the housewives are concerned over this. I may be a patron, but I am also a housewife. That is why I can understand the difficulties and sympathize with the women, who form the majority of the voters. I promise to improve the situation for the very best.

In conclusion, I wish to make a plea to you all to vote for the candidates of the League for Democracy and Peace so we can work for peace as well as ease the problems of the women.

Our election symbol is an alarm clock [words indistinct]. Let me conclude this speech by sending you, the voters, these good wishes:

May you enjoy happiness.
May you be free from all danger.
May you be free from all hardships and poverty.
May you be at peace with yourself.

Cambodia

Hun Sen Reportedly To Meet Sihanouk in Tokyo

OW2604140690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1308 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 26 KYODO—Hun Sen, prime minister of the Vietnamese-installed Cambodian Government, is prepared to meet resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Tokyo in response to a Japanese Government initiative, the chief editor of a

Cambodian weekly magazine said Thursday. Khieu Kanharit, editor in chief of the organ of the Cambodian United Front for National Construction and Defense, quoted a high-ranking official of the Phnom Penh government as expressing Hun Sen's acceptance of Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's invitation to host the talks in Tokyo. Kanharit said the Tokyo talks will depend on Sihanouk, who was initially reported to have refused the Japanese proposal.

Sihanouk, leader of the three-party guerrilla resistance coalition, told a press conference in Bangkok on Tuesday that he has agreed to meet Hun Sen in Tokyo in early June at the request of Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan, one of the original proponents of the meeting. Kanharit highly appraised the Japanese initiative, saying he welcomed Japan's playing a major role in settling the Cambodian conflict.

Radio Comments on Sihanouk's 24-25 Apr 'Lament'

BK2604141590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Station commentary: "A Perfidious Lament"]

[Text] According to the Voice of America, Sihanouk issued a statement on the night of 24 April and morning of 25 April, whimpering pitifully about being pressured and forced by the Free World to stop fighting against the Cambodian people's rebirth. Along with this heartrending lament, Sihanouk boasted about the sham heroism of his ANS [Sihanoukist National Army] combatants who during the past 11 years have been helping the Polpotists in their attempt to return to power. It is still fresh in everyone's mind that this ANS was conceived after the Polpotists had been toppled and driven out by the insurrecting Cambodian people, who forced them to flee and take refuge on the Thai threshold.

We wonder what the ANS has done for the Cambodian people over the past 11 years. It surprises no one that, besides mistreating and robbing Cambodian refugees in various camps, what the ANS accomplished was sneaking into the country to conduct sabotage activities against the property and lives of the Cambodian people in remote regions. Its crimes were most evident on 30 September 1989—three days after the Vietnamese volunteer troops completely pulled out of Cambodian territory—when the ANS attacked Svay Chek township. In that attack, our people saw that the ANS was no less barbarous than its Polpotist allies. Moreover, the ANS has merely been a shield behind which forces hostile to the Cambodian people make aid injections to the Pol Pot gang.

Sihanouk himself admitted that the Polpotist forces are the most reliable army on the battlefield. Therefore, should ANS agree to disarm, the Cambodian people would lose nothing more than another obstacle that has been hindering the motherland's process of rebirth. Moreover, the Polpotists would become increasingly isolated and would head more quickly toward collapse.

Besides bragging about the heroics of his army, Sihanouk also repeatedly screeched out accusations that Vietnam has left behind troops in Cambodia, that Vietnam is colonizing Cambodia, and that Vietnam is violating Cambodia's territorial integrity. On 19 April Sihanouk vociferously announced that Vietnam has grabbed parts of Cambodian territory in the northeastern provinces. But this time Sihanouk went further to say that Vietnam has also seized land in the provinces of Kampot, Takeo, Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, and others. For one who does not know the truth, after hearing Sihanouk's words, he would perhaps believe that the State of Cambodia has already dwindled to about the same size as Sihanouk's so-called liberated zone.

It is not our desire to recall this fact over and over again; we only wish to cite some proofs to back up the assertion that Vietnam has left behind not even a single soldier on Cambodian soil. In a report by the U.S. Defense Department and carried by the Thai paper THE NATION, it was confirmed that the announced total Vietnamese troop withdrawal from Cambodia was genuine. THE NATION quoted a U.S. rear admiral in charge of East Asian and Pacific affairs from a security bureau of the U.S. Defense Department as saying that there is no evidence to support the reactionary Khmer groups' vociferous allegations that Vietnam has left behind thousands of troops in Cambodia.

As for Cambodia's territorial integrity and sovereignty, the SRV has on many occasions announced its sincere respect for them. Recently, in an interview with the Soviet paper IZVESTIYA on 17 April, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Vietnam Communist Party Central Committee, once again affirmed that Vietnam respects the Cambodian people's self-determination and their aspiration in preparing for free general elections under UN supervision and in beginning the reconstruction of an independent, democratic, and neutral Cambodia. Therefore, the one thing that Sihanouk should be worried about and afraid of is Pol Pot's return to power; if Pol Pot were to return, not only would it be impossible for the Cambodian people to build an independent country like the one between 1953 to 1969, but it would also be impossible for them even to guarantee their own lives. Samdech Sihanouk once confided to AFP that if the Khmer Rouge return to power, they would eventually murder him, or at best make him a mere figurehead. Therefore, if the samdech cannot solve the problem, why doesn't he leave it to the Cambodian people to find a joint solution themselves?

Radio Notes Declining EC Support for Sihanouk

BK2704063590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Station commentary: "Justice Will Definitely Prevail"]

[Text] Recently, Sihanouk bitterly criticized the European Economic Community [EEC] for warning him that it will no longer follow past practices of giving Cambodia's UN seat to his coalition government. This EEC

stance was mentioned by former French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson and the Italian foreign minister and has caused great concern to the tripartite coalition government.

Since 1982, Sihanouk and Son Sann have occupied the blood-stained chair of the genocidal Pol Pot clique in order to preserve the seat of this phantom government at the United Nations. With Sihanouk and Son Sann as the smokescreen, representatives of a number of countries have blindly voted for this government, which has neither the land nor the population to occupy the UN seat for nine years. However, justice will prevail. Gradually, the stinking odor blowing against the wind of this government has spread among the peace- and justice-loving world public opinion which has continued to demand that the criminal clique be tried before the Hague Tribunal. Thus, with each passing year, the seat of this coalition government has been burning hot, despite the fact that much money—dollars and yuan—has been contributed to cool it down.

It was from the seat of this top international body of the United Nations that Sihanouk, Son Sann, and Khieu Samphan kept raising their voices in an attempt to shed light on the facts in Cambodia. Meanwhile, imperialist and expansionist forces used their propaganda machines to echo these uproars. They may be able to cover up the fire, but not the smoke. This is proven by the fact that many foreign delegations of all political tendencies that visited the Land of Angkor have learned about the facts in Cambodia. Upon returning home, these delegations publicize everything they see and know about Cambodia. All of this has enhanced the State of Cambodia's international prestige even more highly. Many countries have expressed more sympathy with and support for the Cambodian people's just struggle.

Although some countries have not yet officially recognized the State of Cambodia, they have sent high-ranking officials to visit Cambodia. These officials held talks with Cambodian leaders. Through this, it can be seen more clearly that the forces of the State of Cambodia are the sole power that has prevented the recurrence of the genocidal Pol Pot regime. It is a power that cannot be dismantled. At the same time, people have come to realize that a Cambodian solution is impossible without the participation of the government of the State of Cambodia.

All these factors have further enraged Sihanouk to the point that he has accused other countries, such as Thailand, Indonesia, France, and Australia, of siding with Vietnam and the Soviet Union in supporting Phnom Penh. Sihanouk demands that a genuinely neutral state be the venue for his talks with the State of Cambodia. The Cambodian people would like to remind the samdech that this is not a matter of being biased; rather it is the belief that justice will always prevail over injustice.

French Official, European Parliament Visit

BK2604112990 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0435 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, 26 Apr (SPK)—Before leaving Phnom Penh, Claude Cheysson declared that the European Parliament has studied the decision and resolution on the situation of the Cambodians and that all European political forces wish to see peace brought back to Cambodia through negotiations.

During a news conference held on Wednesday afternoon [25 April], Claude Cheysson—former French foreign minister and socialist member of the European Parliament, who came to Cambodia at the head of a "fact finding mission" [preceding three words in English]—expressed thanks to the authorities of the State of Cambodia for giving a warm welcome to his delegation.

He stressed:

"I have already talked about the nature of our mission. Here we spoke on behalf of the most important political forces of the majority and opposition in all of the European Parliament.

"For months, the European Parliament has studied the decision and resolution on the situation of the Cambodians, the horror that these people have endured, and the sufferings that still exist and to which no one should remain indifferent. When I arrived here, frankly, it was the 15th anniversary of the horrible period, the only one in the world I believe. I come here at a time when attempts at negotiations have not brought the expected results. Now all political forces in Europe wish that negotiations will bring back peace, a peace that would permit internationally-controlled free elections and the establishment of a sovereign, independent, territorially peaceful, and nonaligned Cambodia.

"What can Europe do; what can Europeans do to contribute to it?

"The most important thing is that a mission should come to the spot to bring back to Europe food for thought and information. We have here what you call a "fact finding mission" [preceding three words in English]. Certainly, we have contacted nongovernment organizations, some of which are sponsored by the European Community, in order to get information.

"All the same, on our way back, we will be in Bangkok where we will meet particularly with the Thai prime minister. We want to get as much information as possible.

"In the whole world at present, we talk about detente. It is possible that this detente also exists in this part of the world. It is not acceptable that foreign military aid should keep the war going. It is not acceptable that the future of so many Cambodians should be built in refugee camps. From this point of view, we were very interested in what we have heard from the UN organs here about

the preparation for future repatriation. Basically, we have noted the suggestions and ideas put forward by governments and nongovernment organizations concerning sectors to which priorities should be given.

"I note in particular the desire of people here and there to bring Cambodia to the post-war period. This country and its people have lived in isolation for too long," Claude Cheysson said.

Delegation Leaves

BK2604121490 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1107 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, 26 Apr (SPK)—The delegation from the European Parliament left Phnom Penh Thursday [26 April] morning at the end of its week-long "fact finding mission" [preceding three words in English] in Cambodia.

The delegation was made up of three personalities: Claude Cheysson, former French foreign minister and deputy of the Socialist Group of the European Parliament; Jean-Louis Bourlanges, deputy of the European People's Party, Christian-Democrat; and Janou Lacaze, representative of the French Liberal Party. They were seen off at Pochentong Airport by Hor Nam Hong, minister attached to the Cabinet of the Council of Ministers in charge of foreign affairs, and other personalities.

During their stay, the delegation was received by Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs, and Kong Sam-ol, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers. They also met with representatives of French and European nongovernment organizations.

They visited the "Tuol Sleng" museum of genocidal crimes, the former royal palace, the national museum, the Angkor Wat temples, the Tonle Bati tourist center, and Sisophon, a town not far from Thailand.

Ney Pena, Delegation Depart for Hanoi 27 Apr

BK2704072390 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] A party-state delegation of the State of Cambodia led by Comrade Ney Pena, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Central Propaganda and Education Commission, left for Hanoi this morning to pay a visit and sign an agreement on cooperation in propaganda and education work with the CPV Central Committee's Ideological and Cultural Commission.

Seeing the delegation off at Pochentong Airport were, among others, Comrade Khoy Khunhuor, member of the party Central Committee and first vice chairman of the Central Propaganda and Education Commission; Mrs. Som Kimsuor, member of the party Central Committee and editor in chief of PRACHEACHON newspaper; Comrade Pav Hamphan, vice chairman of the Central Propaganda and Education Commission; Comrade Kep Chhutdema, vice chairman of the Central Propaganda and Education Commission; and many leading cadres from the Central Propaganda and Education Commission. Comrade Kim Xuan, adviser to the SRV Embassy in the State of Cambodia, was also on hand at the airport.

51 Enemy Soldiers Reported Killed 15-21 April

BK2704070390 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, 27 Apr (SPK)—Enemy forces fired several shells on various regions along the Cambodian-Thai border in the provinces of Battambang, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, and Banteay Meanchey from 15 to 21 April.

During the same period, the Cambodian People's Armed Forces put out of action 77 enemy soldiers, including 51 killed, 14 captured, and 12 forced to surrender. It also seized a considerable amount of arms and ammunition.

VODK Reviews Sihanouk's Bangkok Briefing

BK2704075790 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Samdech Norodom Sihanouk has stated that a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian problem can only be achieved if all four Cambodian parties participate in negotiations. On 24 April, Cambodian President Samdech Norodom Sihanouk at a news conference in Bangkok said that the Cambodian problem can only be resolved if the four Cambodian parties participate in negotiations, and that any one-to-one meeting between him and puppet Hun Sen will be nonproductive. The samdech added that if he held talks with Hun Sen there would be confusion over the settlement of the problem. We need the party of Son Sann and Democratic Kampuchea included in the process of seeking peace for Cambodia. Without them the Cambodian problem can never be resolved.

The prince pointed out that the Cambodian problem can only be settled with the participation of the four Cambodian parties. He said: We need the presence of the Khmer Rouge, who have garnered support from the Cambodian people, in negotiations to settle the problem. I believe that bilateral talks between myself and Hun Sen would be useless. Hun Sen has no willingness whatsoever to achieve a solution to the problem. The samdech then found fault with Vietnam and the Phnom Penh puppet regime for refusing to modify their stances on a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian problem. He said: The Phnom Penh regime puppets are not willing to resolve the Cambodian problem; they only want the power in Cambodia. On the issue of providing aid to the Cambodian national resistance forces, the prince said: People should well remember that the Cambodian problem is not the Cambodian people's own problem. It is a question of Vietnam's colonialism in Cambodia. We

should not be told to give up fighting. We need territorial integrity and sovereignty in Cambodia. The Cambodian national resistance forces will not abandon the fight against the Vietnamese aggressors who have occupied Cambodia militarily.

On the situation in Cambodia, the prince said: The Cambodian resistance forces have scored successes on the battlefields in Kompong Thom, Siem Reap, Kompong Cham, Kompong Speu, and other provinces of Cambodia. The resistance forces have taken control of almost all of the enemy positions in those provinces, except for the townships. He added: We object to a cease-fire because we want to see all the Vietnamese withdraw from Cambodia.

Sihanouk Refuses To Be Called 'Faction Leader'

BK2704122890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1201 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Bangkok, April 27 (AFP)—Former Cambodian monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk said in a statement circulated here Friday [27 April] he should not be described as a faction leader, tacitly distancing himself from the country's warring groups. Followers of the 68-year-old prince constitute one of two non-communist factions allied to the powerful Marxist Khmer Rouge in a guerrilla coalition fighting to topple the Vietnam-installed government in Phnom Penh.

Prince Sihanouk, who is to meet Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen in Tokyo in June, blasted in his statement "the mass media and certain governments" for treating him with "contempt," by describing him as leader of "the smallest and weakest Cambodian faction." In response the prince said he was transferring command of his forces to his son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh. Recalling that he also renounced the leadership of his party last year, prince Sihanouk said that as of April 27, "no one shall have the right to call me 'leader of (a) faction.'" But the prince, who is now in Beijing, indicated he had no intention to stay away from efforts to end the war, signing his statement "Norodom Sihanouk, president of Cambodia." [passage omitted]

Meanwhile Prince Ranariddh said in an open letter to "Cambodia watchers" here Friday that Prince Sihanouk could not be held responsible for the deadlock on Cambodia. Prince Sihanouk had shown "flexibility in the search for immediate peace for his country and people," the letter said, adding that he had made "courageous and unselfish concessions" while "Hanoi hardliners" still harbored "their ambition of dominating and controlling Cambodia." It was unfair to blame Prince Sihanouk "for the present premeditated stalemate... while others continue to skillfully sabotage all peace talks, the letter said.

Khmer Rouge Radio said Friday that a Soviet ship had brought 5,000 tonnes of weapons and ammunition to Cambodia's Kompong Som seaport April 20, the second such delivery of miltary aid to the government in April. The opposition coalition has repeatedly rejected Moscow's claim that it froze military aid to Phnom Penh by the end of 1989.

VODK on SRV Refusal To Accept UN Control

BK2604071590 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Station commentary: "Vietnam and Its Lackey Puppets Have Their Backs to the Wall By Avoiding Talks and Hiding Themselves in Their Lairs"]

[Text] Why do the Vietnamese enemies and their lackey puppets avoid talks? Spectacular, fallacious maneuvers which the Vietnamese enemies have performed for a long while are now over. The stratagems have been designed to mislead people about the Vietnamese troop pullout from Cambodia, to achieve a cease-fire and a cessation of aid to the Cambodian resistance forces, and to hold elections aimed at endorsing the puppet regime that Vietnam installed in Cambodia. However, the gambits had ended in failure since the world demanded that a UN international control mechanism [UN-ICM] be stationed in Cambodia to control and verify the Vietnamese aggressor troops' presence and that the Vietnamese-installed regime be dissolved to pave the way for organizing general and free elections in the country. Nonetheless, the Vietnamese enemies have objected to the demands. The refusal shows the world that the Vietnamese are not sincere because they desire to continue preserving their troops and other aggressor forces in Cambodia.

At present, the international community more clearly sees that the Vietnamese have not withdrawn their troops from Cambodia; they have instead shipped more fresh troops from Vietnam to the country. This makes the world realize that a definitive comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian problem could be achieved if:

1. A UN-ICM is stationed in Cambodia to verify and monitor Vietnam's withdrawing its troops from Cambodia and prevent it from shipping fresh troops and new war equipment to Cambodia; and
2. The illegally Vietnamese-installed regime is dismantled to create a neutral climate preventing any party from being advantaged in order to make elections in Cambodia free and democratic.

As their diplomatic stratagems fail and the world remains adamant, the Vietnamese enemies and their lackey puppets have refused to negotiate. Because they realize that if they agreed to hold talks, they would certainly be compelled to genuinely remove their troops from Cambodia and to accept the control and supervision of the United Nations. There is clear evidence that the Vietnamese enemies and lackey puppets do not want to genuinely resolve the Cambodian problem and withdraw Vietnamese troops from Cambodia. It also proves that the Vietnamese enemies have their backs to the wall and can no longer carry out their deceptive gambits.

Now, what is left for them is to hide themselves in their lairs, avoiding stronger denunciation and condemnation. At any rate, the Vietnamese enemies and their puppets cannot remain in their lairs for long because the world is putting pressure from all directions to force them out to accept the UN control over the withdrawal of their aggressor forces and to dismantle the colonialist regime they have installed in the country in order to clear the way for organizing correct, free, and democratic elections in Cambodia.

The tripartite Cambodian national resistance forces led by the National Government of Cambodia and Cambodian President Samdech Norodom Sihanouk will continue to cooperate with the Cambodian people nationwide in fighting the Vietnamese invaders on the battlefield to unmask and show the world their false guise as puppet soldiers, militiamen, and Cambodian inhabitants, and to press them into accepting a fair and definitive comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem by withdrawing their troops and invading forces of all categories from Cambodia under an effective verification undertaken by the United Nations with the cooperation from the four Cambodian parties and by allowing the Cambodian people to choose their destiny themselves free from outside interference and intervention.

Report of Another USSR Arms Shipment 20 Apr

BK2704014890 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] On 20 April, another Soviet ship brought 5,000 tonnes of ammunition and assorted small and large guns, as well as a huge quantity of other war materiel to Kompong Som seaport for the Vietnamese aggressors' and their lackey puppets' continuing invasion and occupation of Cambodia. This was the second arms and ammunition delivery in April following the first shipment of 10,000 tonnes arriving to the same port on 16 April [date as heard].

SRV Commander Reportedly Flees Kompong Thom

BK2704034590 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] According to a reliable report from Kompong Thom town on 18 April, following the 11 April attacks on and liberation of Prasat Balang and Stoung Districts, our Cambodian national resistance forces have vigorously advanced offensives toward the town from many directions. The offensives unleashed by the Cambodian national resistance forces have caused great dismay and chaos among the Vietnamese enemies and puppets in Kompong Thom town. In particular, the two expert Vietnamese regional commanders directing the troops in Kompong Thom became extremely fearful because earlier they had experienced this in Prasat Balang and Stoung Districts. That being the case, on 12 April, an expert Vietnamese deputy regional commander pretended to be sick for the purpose of abandoning the Vietnamese enemies and puppets in Kompong Thom to save his own skin.

VONADK on Ambush in Northwest Phnom Penh

BK2704043590 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] On 21 April, our national resistance forces ambushed a Vietnamese-puppet battalion on the road linking Aoral District and the Kompong Speu provincial town, on the northwest Phnom Penh battlefield. We killed 12 enemy soldiers on the spot and wounded 25 others; we destroyed a tank, three vehicles, and some war materiel.

Laos

Officials Deny Reports of Pro-Democracy Rallies

BK2704015590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Apr 90 pp 1, 3

[Text] At least 35 people were killed when Laotian government troops suppressed pro-democracy rallies in four Laotian provinces last month, Armed Forces spokesman Narudon Detpradiyut said yesterday. Lt-Gen [Lieutenant General] Narudon said that pro-democracy rallies were reported by Laotian villagers near the Thai border in the provinces of Xieng Khouang, Sayaboury, Champassak and Bolikhamsai during March 11-13. Laotian embassy officials in Bangkok denied yesterday that pro-democracy demonstrations have occurred.

Lt-Gen Narudon said the rallies also called for Vientiane to solve current economic problems and sufferings faced by the Laotian people. During the weekly Armed Forces press conference yesterday, Lt-Gen Narudon said pro-democracy rallies were reported in Meuang Phrek and Kenthao of Sayaboury Province and Meuang Siang Mouan of Champassak Province. Lt-Gen Narudon said rallies were also reported in other towns but he did not elaborate.

The reports added that Laotian government troops were sent to suppress the rallies and take control of the situation in the four provinces, he said. Lao villagers near the border told Thai authorities that there were at least 35 dead in Xieng Khouang Province alone. The Laotian Government has apparently banned all forms of public gathering following the rallies, Lt-Gen Narudon said. The spokesman said that allegations by the Laotian Governemnt that Thailand was behind the rallies were baseless. During the press conference Lt-Gen Narudon reiterated Thailand's policy of non-interference. He said the demonstrators were Laotians and Thailand had nothing to do with the demonstration.

Military intelligence sources told the BANGKOK POST yesterday that there had been similar rallies opposite

Nong Khai Province. The sources, who were not specific regarding detail, said that there were about 100 demonstrators in "each of the spots" where rallies took place. Laotian embassy officials in Bangkok denied that such demonstrations happened in their country. "Although the embassy has not received any news from Vientiane, we can confirm and are sure that no such incidents took place in our country," one of the officials said. Another official said that there is no need to check with Vientiane since there is no such news. Asked about the reported Lao resistance forces in Laos, the official said that there was such news in the past, but not at present.

Committee Appoints Court Vice Chairman, Judges

BK2504083390 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Resolution issued by the Supreme People's Assembly Standing Committee on appointments of vice chairman and judges of the Supreme People's Court—dated 12 April 1990]

[Text] Based on Article 13 of the law on the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] No. 04/SPA, dated 19 April 1988, of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and based on the proposal of the chairman of the Supreme People's Court [SPC] No. 01/SPC, dated 10 April 1990, the SPA Standing Committee issues the following resolution:

Article 1: Davon Vangvichit is appointed as vice chairman of the Supreme People's Court.

Article 2: Five judges are appointed to the Supreme People's Court. They are:

1. Peng Saisanadet,
2. Nouanthong Vongsa,
3. Lesong Thongvon,
4. Khammoun Lattanalasi, and
5. Singthong Sihalat.

Article 3: This resolution is effective the day it is signed.

Phoumi Vongvichit Thanks Nguyen Huu Tho

BK2504044490 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee Political Bureau, acting president of the republic, and chairman of the Lao Front for National Construction [LFNC] Central Committee, on 20 April sent a message of thanks to Comrade Nguyen Huu Tho, chairman of the Presidium of the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] Central Committee, Hanoi. The message reads:

I am very pleased to receive your message, comrade, conveying warm greetings and best wishes to me and the multiethnic Lao people on the occasion of the traditional Lao New Year, Buddhist Era 2533. On behalf of the LFNC Central Committee, the multiethnic Lao people, and in my own name, I would like to take this opportunity to express our wholehearted, sincere thanks to you, Comrade Chairman, and all the comrade members of the VFF Central Committee for conveying the traditional New Year greetings to us. May the special solidarity, friendship, and all-around cooperation between our two fronts and two peoples of Laos and Vietnam be increasingly consolidated and developed! I wish you, comrade, good health and new success in performing your noble, glorious tasks.

Feature Reports District Deters 'Bad Elements'

BK2604125190 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0430 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Feature: "Economic Construction in Support of National Defense in Mok Mai District"]

[Text] Mok Mai is a remote district in the mountainous part of Xieng Khouang Province with no convenient means of communication with the provincial town or other districts. In other words, Mok Mai is totally isolated from the outside world. The majority of the district's population belongs to the Hmong tribe who live on the mountains and rely on slash-and-burn agriculture. Only a few live on low plains and earn their living from rice cultivation. In the past, the district was left unattended in the jungle without any form of development. The people lived in a state of backwardness. Its underdeveloped national defense and public security networks allowed bad elements to infiltrate into the district to carry out subversive activities detrimental to the people's livelihood and security.

However, the district is now being developed into a new economic zone with the aim of upgrading the people's living conditions and building new, prosperous rural areas. The national defense and public security networks have been energetically renovated and strengthened. Militia units have been systematically established in all villages and cantons to defend their respective localities and conduct regular patrols to search for the bad elements and suppress their sinister schemes. Moreover, the militia units have also dismantled several hideouts of the nefarious criminals and captured quantities of their weapons. The militia units of Mok and (Meuang Hat) and other cantons have set heroic examples in the suppression of the bad elements.

The local residents are reputed for their effective contribution to the tasks of national defense and maintenance of peace and order. Villagers are very cooperative with the administration and regional forces. Their support is quite reliable. They have been acting as the eyes and ears of the authorities in following movements of the bad elements and keeping the administration well informed of the situation in their localities. In so doing, they have demonstrated their sense of patriotism, love for the new regime as well as their own fatherland, and consistent vigilance against the schemes of the bad elements.

Mok Mai District is now in the process of extricating itself from economic backwardness, while peace and order is being gradually restored in every locality. The district administration has been paying special attention to economic construction in support of national defense and maintenance of peace and order.

Commander's 'Outstanding Achievements' Praised

BK1904102390 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0430 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Feature article by So Phouangdokson entitled: "A Commanding Officer at a Mountain Peak"]

[Text] In the dense jungles located on a rugged and high mountain and in deep ravines where certain bad elements have carried out their operations, combatants of Team "B," which is attached to Unit "F" [words indistinct]. Whenever, we talk about (?the activities) of the team, the picture of (?heroic deeds) of its commanding officer must pop up in everyone's mind. In fact, that mountainous region was not the birthplace of the officer. Nonetheless, whenever he was called upon by duty, an officer of such calibre could not resist the higher command's instruction. He had to go there to perform his duty because that was also part of Lao territory, all of which he reveres and loves as if it had been his own native village.

Even though I briefly met Comrade Khrua on that day, my encounter with him was very meaningful, for I greatly learned (?from him) about the hard life of the regional force combatants [words indistinct] who have carried out the duty to defend our beloved land and [passage indistinct]. Comrade Khrua told me about one of his recent adventures when he was assigned to lead a team to suppress the bad elements in an area within the distance of about a one-day walk from his unit [passage indistinct]. They were fully armed. Comrade Khrua then deployed his men in preparation for attack. The deafening gun fire broke out [words indistinct]. Three bodies of the bad elements were left at the site of the incident, and a number of them were wounded and fled the scene.

Comrade Khrua is not only good in combat but is also generous to his colleagues. He is a good commander. Considering his outstanding achievements and qualifications, and in response to his unit's recommendation, the higher echelon conferred on him a Victory Medal, 2d class, and promoted him from 2d lieutenant to 1st lieutenant.

Philippines

Manglapus Urges U.S. To Comply With Commitments

HK2704102590 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 27 Apr 90

[By Rey Arquiza from the Department of Foreign Affairs]

[Text] Budgetary constraints are not a sufficient reason for the U.S. Government to turn its back on its obligations spelled out in the 1988 Manglapus-Shultz military bases agreement. This was stated by Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus in reaction to the failure of the United States to pay $222.58 million for the use of the military bases.

Manglapus explained that the $222.58 million aid shortfall was not contained in a note verbale sent to the U.S. Embassy. He said: I am releasing to the media the new computation of the U.S. aid shortfall as calculated by an interagency committee and in response to a question by diplomatic reporters on the real amount of U.S. aid shortfall. Manglapus said that given the broad and huge resources in its possession, the United States can easily pay up its obligations. It simply needs to change its priorities in order to meet its commitment to the Philippines.

Citing an example, Manglapus said that the United States recently ordered 66 Hornet fighter planes worth $2 billion. If the United States put off the purchase of three of the 66 fighter planes, it can use the money to pay off its obligations to the Philippines.

Manglapus stressed that that United States can only meet its obligations by reorienting its priorities. He expressed hope that the United States can find ways to resolve the shortfall problem before exploratory talks on the bases begin on 14 May. Otherwise, the agenda of the talks will be affected.

Meanwhile, the United States's refusal to pay the $5 million security bond as stipulated in the military bases agreement is the reason for the country's failure to relocate the 30,000 squatters living on the perimeters of Clark Air Base. Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus made the revelation today in response to accusation that the Philippines failed to implement the security plan of the military bases agreement.

The United States maintained that the $5 million squatters relocation fund is contained in the military bases agreement compensation package, while we have agreed that the amount will be paid directly by the United States to the country and is exclusive of the rent they are paying, said Manglapus.

Manglapus also said that the real purpose of the exploratory talks is for the two panels to determine whether negotiations on the future of the military bases after 1991 are necessary.

Communist Proposal on Bases Not on Talks Agenda

HK2704103190 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] The Communist Party of the Philippines' [CPP] proposal that U.S. military bases be removed from the country as a precondition for the declaration of a ceasefire will not be raised by the Philippine panel at the bases

exploratory talks scheduled for 14 May. This was announced by National Security Adviser Rafael Ileto, who added that the CPP condition will not be considered because the communist movement will benefit from the withdrawal of the U.S. bases.

Ileto also believed that the proposal was raised by communist leaders because the maintenance of U.S. military bases has been an obstacle to the realization of their objectives.

U.S. Friendship Treaty Proposal Rejected

HK2704035290 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 27 Apr 90 pp 1, 6

[By staff members Johanna Son and Chay Florentino]

[Text] The executive yesterday rejected a proposal by 13 senators for Filipino negotiators to present to the Americans a draft treaty of friendship and cooperation" with the United States which would replace any new bases agreement.

During a hearing of the Senate foreign relations committee, the departments of foreign affairs and defense, and the National Security Council agreed that putting the proposal on the agenda of the May 14 exploratory talks was improper and premature.

"The exploratory talks are not the proper venue for this treaty," Foreign Undersecretary Manuel Yan told the committee, headed by Sen. Leticia Shahani.

National Security Adviser Rafael Ileto also said that "we can look into it but I don't know if it would be proper."

Meanwhile, Rep. Jose de Venecia (Pangasinan) urged the U.S. to initiate the delivery of $750 million in compensation for the bases in case of a new treaty after 1991.

The compensation package should, however, be realized in terms of "burden sharing," De Venecia, chairman of the House foreign affairs committee, told the Diplomatic Kapihan [Breakfast Forum].

The concept of burden sharing, he said, is anchored on the need for nations which benefit from the presence of the American bases here to contribute their lot. As such, the U.S. could be expected to contribute $450 million annually while Saudi Arabia and Kuwait could be tapped for $100 million each in petroleum credits, and South Korea $100 million in debt reduction facilities, De Venecia explained.

"A lot of nations are getting a free ride on the Philippine base facilities," he said.

In the Senate, Shanhani also proposed that the Philippines seek its neighbors' views on regional security to help it prepare for the May 14 exploratory talks on the U.S. bases. "We are really prisoners of (our) bilaterial relationships with the United States because we don't know anything else about regional or global affairs," Shahani said, adding "That's why I am saying we should undertake dialogues with our Asia-Pacific neighbors to get firsthand information on what they really think about regional peace and security."

During the Shahani committee hearing, Yan reminded senators that the exploratory talks were not yet formal negotiations but "informal exchanges of views."

Ramos Defends Presence of U.S. Military Bases

HK2704022190 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos defended the presence of U.S. military bases in the country. He said they strengthen Asian security and allow the country to develop its economy. Ramos warned outright removal of the bases could undermine political stability and security in the Philippines.

He reiterated his proposal for a five to ten year phaseout of the American facilities.

The United States and the Philippines are to begin exploratory talks in Manila on May 14 on the future of Clark Air Base, Subic naval station and [words indistinct] installations.

Column Says Evangelists Funded by CIA

HK2704133090 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE in English 27 Apr 90 p 5

["Observations" column by Jarius Bondoc: "Where really is the CIA connection?"]

[Excerpt] The Catholic Church warns about the arrival in June of some 8,000 fundamentalist preachers from the U.S. It insinuates that the army of "televangelists" is funded by the Central Intelligence Agency.

The knee-jerk reaction of Catholicborn and—raised Filipino nationalists is to prepare for the onslaught of the born-again preachers as they would for a continuation of the Filipino American War. After all, the fundamentalists had performed well for the CIA in Central and South America; they had helped prop up dictators when Catholic bishops became "infected" with liberation theology.

But they should look more carefully at how the CIA really operates in the Philippines, and who its outspoken allies are.

To be sure, the CIA works principally through established institutions and personalities. So when it comes to religious groups, the CIA would naturally operate first through the Catholic Church and its leaders before turning to the born-again movement, which is a minority of the Christian faithful.

I'm not saying that the Catholic Church is a CIA front. But certainly, some members of its hierarchy help the CIA in, say, advancing the U.S. line on the bases issue. Take, for instance, Cardinal Jaime Sin's remark to U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle when the latter came to visit

last September. "Many Filipinos want your military bases to stay," Sin had told Quayle.

That kind of attitude among Catholic leaders is probably the reason why a proposed antibases resolution never saw the light of day in the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

Now, there could be another reason why the Catholic Church is wary of the 8,000 preachers. These Americans are trained proselytizers of their faith. They can handily "pirate" Catholics from the parishes to the born-again worship centers.

But the 8,000 Christian soldiers will have a hard time when it comes to televangelism. All the TV stations, except for GMA-7, are "controlled" by the Catholic Church. IBC-13 will soon be leased to the Archdiocese of Manila, if Sin's plans push through. RPN-9, the sequestered network, also hosts Catholic talk shows. And so does the government station, PTV-4.

Control of the airwaves is another story altogether, though. [passage omitted]

PRC Envoy Protests Presence of Taiwan Official

HK2604110990 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] An incident occurred earlier today at a diplomatic forum when the People's Republic of China ambassador found a Taiwanese official present at the same forum. Chinese ambassador to the Philippines Wang Yingfan and political officer Xie Zhiqiong walked out when organizers failed to explain the presence of William Li, counsellor of Taiwan's Pacific Economic and Cultural Center.

Wang approached NBI [National Bureau of Investigations] chief Alfredo Lim and Congressman Jose de Venecia who were also present at the forum to bade farewell when he saw Li coming 45 minutes after the diplomatic forum started. Organizers could not explain why the Taiwan representative was invited to the forum. The Department of Foreign Affairs blamed the organizer of the diplomatic forum, Mr. D.Y. Caparas, for the incident.

Incident Termed Policy Violation

OW2604131590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1123 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Manila, April 26 KYODO—Chinese Ambassador Wang Yingfan in Manila stormed out of a breakfast forum here Thursday after finding a Taiwanese official had also been invited.

Chinese Embassy political officer Xie Zhiqiong later told KYODO news service the embassy saw the incident as a violation of the Philippines' "one-China policy" and that the ambassador was drafting a letter of protest.

Wang was seated at the forum when William Li, counsellor of Taiwan's quasi-official office in Manila, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Center, came in and shook hands with Filipino officials.

Incensed, the ambassador stood up and left.

"This is very embarrassing. I cannot tolerate this," House Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jose de Venecia, who was one of the guests, quoted Wang as saying.

Wang, waited several minutes outside the room for an explanation from the forum's organizer, D.Y. Caparas, a former information officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs. But Caparas refused to talk to Wang and the visibly angered ambassador left. "He (Caparas) should show some respect for me, for my position," the ambassador said. "This is a function of diplomats... This is not a private affair.

Caparas told reporters he owed the official no explanation because he was no longer with the government. But Xie said it was the forum's practice to invite only diplomats, officials and reporters.

The incident is the latest tiff in Sino-Philippine relations. President Corazon Aquino officially bans formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan, but Chinese officials have protested on several occasions what they allege to be Philippine violations of the policy.

Aquino Assures PRC of Policy

HK2704102990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] President Aquino today assured the People's Republic of China of the country's continued adherence to the one-China policy. The president instructed Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus to explain to the Chinese authorities that the country continues to recognize the one-China policy. According to her, the country's relations with Taiwan are restricted to commerce and trade, and do not cover political and government affairs.

The president made the assurance following a threat by the Chinese Embassy to file a diplomatic protest once it is determined that the president had met with a Taiwanese official. Beijing has already expressed annoyance over the visit to Manila of Taiwan's economic minister Lawrence Chen.

Yesterday, the Chinese ambassador walked out of a diplomatic forum to protest the presence of a Taiwanese official.

YOU Threat To Attack British Embassy Dismissed

HK2604110190 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] The British Government has shrugged off a threat by the Young Officers Union, or YOU, to attack the

British Embassy in Manila. The threat stemmed from report of British assistance in training presidential security guards for the Aquino government. British Ambassador Keith McInnes has a statement on this. [McInnes recording indistinct]

Laurel Opposes Extension of Emergency Power

HK2604111190 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] The duration of President Corazon Aquino's emergency powers should not be extended. This was the reaction of Vice President Salvador Laurel on the question of the president's emergency powers. Laurel maintained that the duration should be shortened and definitely should not be extended as it would be a violation of our Constitution.

Here is the explanation by Vice President Doy Laurel to DZRH's Liberty in Action program:

[Begin recording] The Constitution's stipulation on this matter is clearly stated. It states that once the emergency powers are granted by the Congress to the President, they will automatically expire when Congress adjourns. The duration may be shortened but not extended. Now, if the president requests an extension, she will have to seek new emergency powers and give her reasons for them. If she can not give any explanation, then Congress will not grant her emergency powers. Now, the president has to abide by the constitutional provision because she was the one who appointed the members who wrote the constitution. She cannot get away from that. [end recording]

Ileto Urges Talks Between Congress, Malacanang

HK2604024990 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] National Security Adviser Rafael Ileto reiterated consultations between Congress and Malacanang regarding the extension of President Aquino's emergency powers.

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos said he is in favor of the extension which ends 8 June. According to him, he will make formal the recommendation during the Cabinet Cluster Committee's meeting on 30 April.

Aquino Launches Livelihood Programs in Tarlac

HK2604052390 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] President Aquino today launched several livelihood projects in her province in Tarlac. She visited the successful cooperative set up by former New People's Army leader Bernabe Buscayno in Capas, Tarlac. Mrs Aquino visited the Capas Productivity Center Complex and (Wemar) government's factory besides launching the Post Harvest Facilities Complex. She also distributed 484 emancipation patents for land reform beneficiaries. There was only one theme during the visit. She appealed to the people for unity and cooperation for the continued success of livelihood programs and that the country's economy will further improve.

Urges Communists To Surrender

HK2604115590 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 26 Apr 90

[By Dick Sinchongco from Capas, Tarlac]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino today called on communist leaders to surrender and help promote the economic wellbeing of their fellow countrymen. The president made the appeal during a visit to a cooperative established by peasants under the leadership of Comrade Dante or Bernabe Buscayno, the founder of the New People's Army.

Praising Comrade Dante's success in organizing the peasants of the province, the president maintained that she was right in freeing Comrade Dante, who was then imprisoned as a political prisoner. She added that she was thankful that she had not been mistaken with Comrade Dante, but that on the case of another person, she appeared to have made a bad judgment. The president was referring to Jose Maria Sison, another Communist Party of the Philippines leader who was also released by the Aquino government but who then resumed the fight against the government. Sison is believed to be in the Netherlands where he is now seeking political asylum.

Accompanying the president on her visit to Capas, Tarlac where she inaugurated a building of the Tarlac Integrated People's Livelihood Program were members of her Cabinet, some governors, and foreign ambassadors.

In her speech, Mrs. Aquino stated that rebels who took to the hills should be given a chance to live a normal life again and to help the government.

[Begin Aquino recording] Let us continue helping one another. I have seen what you have achieved in your cooperative and I would like to see it repeated all over the country. [end recording]

The president also mentioned a proposal by Quezon Governor Eduardo Rodriguez that Comrade Dante appeal to Gregorio Rosal, alias Comrade Roger, commander of the NPA Melito Glor Command and currently hiding in the mountains of Quezon, to surrender and help the government.

The president said that if rebel leaders could give up their arms and help the government, the country will be able to achieve progress and development. The cooperative set up by Comrade Dante after he was released now has some 10,000 members.

Former NPA Leader Urged To Help Government

HK2604110790 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Italicized portions in English]

[Text] Quezon Province Governor Eddie Rodriguez asked former New People's Army [NPA] leader Bernabe Buscayno, alias commander Dante, to urge NPA Melito Glor Command chief Gregorio Rosal, to surrender. According to Rodriguez, if comrade Roger was also to head a cooperative similar to that of comrade Dante, Quezon Province could progress in the same way as Tarlac.

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] I have an offer to comrade Roger *to come down and help me also, in the same manner you are helping the people here in Tarlac.*

Comrade Dante, you can perhaps help us to convince comrade Roger to come down. *Because, I'm sure you will be able to do a great [ch anges thought] he would be able to replicate what you are doing here in Quezon Province and in Southern Tagalog.* It might be possible, comrade Dante. Thank you very much.

[Dante] *Back to that question of rebel returnees. There were five or six rebel returnees who came here and we trained them. And right now there's a schedule for organizing them. One returnee is still here. I think* he was not able to enter. *I never mention anything.* This is the best tactic for those who are still in the mountains. They just observe *what we are doing and the attidutes of people towards us.* If they leave the movement, we accomodate them. *And I can say that Tarlac, or especially Capas, is one of the peaceful provinces.* Others say that even if the communist rebels create trouble here, I used to be an NPA and ... [sentence not continued]. I think they will not accept me because I am no longer a communist. I am already a capitalist. [end recording]

Earlier, Gregorio Rosal said it is a waste that commander Dante is contented working with the cooperative instead of fighting for the communist ideal. They compared him to Edam cheese. Here is comrade Roger's statement from his hideout in the Sierra Madre mountains:

[Comrade Roger] It is a pity. We used to recognize him as our leader. Now he is urging the movement to stop fighting. As history shows, the success of the people's struggle is not through the ruling elite, but through the path we are taking. It is a waste to see his many years of effort end up in this. His only interest is to head a cooperative, a simple project used for propaganda by the ruling elite. They give false hope to the farmers, especially in hacienda Luisita and in Tarlac.

Our comrades would jokingly say that he is like Edam cheese, red outside but yellow inside. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Ramos Says RAM, YOU 'One and the Same'

HK2604133790 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1300 GMT 26 Apr 90

[By Jonathan Cristobal]

[Text] The rightist Reform the Armed Forces Movement [RAM] and the alleged newly-formed Young Officers Union [YOU] are one and the same. This was revealed by Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos in an address to a forum sponsored by the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines, or Focap.

Based on investigations by the military's intelligence community, Ramos said that they discovered that some RAM members also belong to YOU. He added that most of the younger officers belonging to the two organizations are also known to have been involved in the 28 August 1987 and 1 December 1989 coup attempts and are presently being hunted by the authorities.

Ramos stressed that the rebel faction is not as big and as influential in the military as the core group of YOU would make it appear. Instead, the defense chief maintained that YOU is merely a front organization of RAM designed to carry out propaganda and agitation operations for the ultra-rightist movement. YOU is necessary to the rebel movement because RAM is no longer appealing to the people.

Ramos said that YOU plays the same role for RAM as the National Democratic Front does for the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Improved Defense Measures Sought at Meeting

HK2604110590 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Defense and military officials are demanding the adoption of laws to deal with the country's security and crime situation. Jim Velasano for the full report:

[Begin recording] They stressed the need to update the integrated defense plans of cities and municipalities in order to further check rebel attacks on town halls, police stations, and military detachments.

In a command briefing presided over by Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] chief Brigadier General Cesar Nazareno said that field joint commanders are often handicapped by ineffective laws. Meanwhile, PC commanders also complained about the lack of interest of some civilian officials in the peace and order councils as well as in the government's counterinsurgency and anticriminal campaigns.

The PC-INP chief proposed to Secretary Ramos that stronger representations be made before other government offices so that better coordination can be realized.

On his part, Secretary Ramos said that peace and order councils should be reinforced so that they may act as

umbrella organizations in dealing with crises such as coups and other violent incidents. [end recording]

Air Force To Reactivate Radar Stations

HK2704034690 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 27 Apr 90 p 8

[Text] The Philippine Air Force (PAF) hopes to regain its capabilities in air defene as the government's guardian of Philippine skies by reactivating its radar stations in Pasuqin, Ilocos Norte; Hill 900 in Zamboanda, and Lubang, Mindoro.

Maj. Gen. Gerardo C. Protacio, PAF commanding general, said yesterday this primary mission of the government has been downgraded before in view of the presence of U.S. bases here.

Despite financial problems, the PAF hopes to acquire new power sources to boost the technical capabilities in generating power for its radar sites and acquire additional equipment to improve their tracking, identifying, and intercepting of both friendly and hostile aircraft flying over the Philippine area of responsibility, Protacio added.

Protacio added that the PAF needs to develop its aging fleet and acquire superior aircraft to improve its power as protector of Philippine skies.

Mindanao Brownout Blamed on 'Lawless Elements'

HK2704034890 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 27 Apr 90 p 8

[Text] General Santos City—Rodrigo Falcon, National Power Corp. (Napocor) vice president for Mindanao, said yesterday outlaws burned down electric wood poles here, causing a brownout in four provinces and two cities in the South.

Falcon was quoted by Celso Guanco Jr., Napocor area manager for southwestern Mindanao, as saying that "lawless elements intentionally burned down" 2HA type electric wood poles along the Tagurong-Klinan 138 KV in Kablon, Tupi, South Cotabato, and Tagurong 69 KV lines in Capiton, Dinaig, Maguindanao, last April 14.

Napocor probers, suspecting a sabotage pattern, found unburned piles of grass and corn stalks near the burned wood poles.

Thailand

Minister on 'Neutral Camp', Displaced Cambodians

BK2704025390 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Apr 90 p 5

[Text] Thailand will try to help as many displaced Cambodians as possible to resettle in third countries before putting the rest in a neutral camp, Interior Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha said yesterday. Speaking after his visit to two refugee camps in Prachin Buri, the minister said he believed the Cambodians would not mind where they were moved to as long as they were sufficiently provided for.

Mr Banhan, who visited Site 2 in Ta Phraya District and Site 8 in Khlong Hat Sub-district, will report his findings to Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan. After that, there will be a joint meeting of the ministries of Interior, Defence and Foreign Affairs and the National Security Council to discuss the neutral camp issue.

The minister estimated about 304,000 Cambodians would be put in a neutral camp to be set up under Prime Minister Chatchai's policy.

Mr Banhan said there were many problems concerning the displaced Cambodians because while there was a reduction in aid from the United Nations their number continued to increase as about five or six babies were born every day at each of the eight camps. Also, there were too few officials to supervise the camps, he said, adding that the current ratio was about 1:400.

Moreover, the Government faced problems finding money to relocate the displaced Cambodians, he said.

During his visit to Site 2, camp officials told Mr Banhan that hundreds of Cambodians had fled the camp to look for work. So far 380 Cambodians have been tracked down and arrested, according to the officials. They said some went as far as Samut Prakan, which neighbours Bangkok.

Sihanouk's 24 Apr News Conference Reviewed

BK2604102590 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Article from the "Cambodian Diary" program: "How Much Longer Will the World Continue To Pay Attention to Cambodia?"]

[Text] The question was raised by a foreign reporter to Prince Norodom Sihanouk during the prince's press conference in Bangkok on 24 April before he departed to China. The prince's answer is very reasonable and impressive for his Cambodian compatriots. He said that even though there were (?masses) of critiques and reports which represented the idea that the world was getting tired of the incessant dispute involving the Cambodia conflict, in reality, he could insist that the world continued and would never (?leave) Cambodia. Nobody can abandon Cambodia, the prince said.

The efforts of the United Nations Security Council and the enthusiastic role of ASEAN can be the evidence representing that the world never abandoned Cambodia. Prince Sihanouk reiterated that the Cambodia conflict was an international problem. Prince Sihanouk said that his people could not stop the fighting as long as the Vietnamese troops and settlers still existed in Cambodia. Consequently, Prince Sihanouk warned that the enhancing United Nations' role was the most essential element to help ease the Cambodia conflict. The prince

once again repeatedly stated that without the imposing role of the international forces provided by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, the cease-fire could not be real.

Prince Sihanouk said in his nine-point proposal that it is necessary that, prior to the cease-fire proclamation, the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council send to Cambodia a joint armed contingent made up from (?all respective) armies, and placed under the high command of the representatives of the United Nations secretary general. This neutral international force will be charged with implementing the cease-fire (?in place) and preventing this or that Cambodian army from continuing to attack one another in order to try to take away from it additional territories.

In regards to the matter of the Khmer Rouge, Prince Sihanouk pointed out that:

[Begin Sihanouk recording] But I (?kept) China, and China seems very serious when she gives Son Sann, she gives Sihanouk, she gives the noncommunist forces the guarantee that the Khmer Rouge will not violate the agreement signed in Kuala Lumpur in June 1982. The Khmer Rouge will not try to take power alone. The Khmer Rouge will always abide by the spirit of the tripartite coalition, which our three factions put on equal footing, sharing equal power. [end recording]

Prince Sihanouk firmly stated that he trusted that China would help to restrict the Khmer Rouge to abide by the result of the general elections, and China would guarantee the Khmer Rouge would not violate the Kuala Lumpur memorandum signed in June 1982. Prince Sihanouk believed that, therefore, the Khmer Rouge will respect lives and human rights of Cambodians. After the general elections under supervision of the United Nations, the Khmer Rouge will respect and behave under the results of the election. Prince Sihanouk told reporters that against the tide of unpopularity in the western world, the Khmer Rouge has become the symbol of courage, heroism, and super patriotism to the young generation of Cambodians.

[Words indistinct] of the interview session, Prince Sihanouk suggested the necessity of the role of the United Nations in providing the peacekeeping force and administrative structure to be present in Cambodia. Prince Sihanouk said that his people were not only fighting for peace, but for Cambodian independence and territorial integrity from Vietnam. Reiterating the concession he made in his nine-point peace proposal earlier this month, Prince Sihanouk said he accepted the maintaining of the non-legislative, non-political service of the Hun Sen regime to serve the United Nations administering authority, while the administrative powers were needed to be transferred to the United Nations trusteeship.

At last, Prince Sihanouk said in his proposal that before the general elections can take place, the following tasks had to be completed: the control and dismantling of the caches of arms of the Vietnamese, the Khmer factions, and other armed groups—Cambodian or foreign—has to be verified; the verification of the presence of armed Vietnamese elements and illegal immigrants which should be repatriated under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has to be completed; and the verification of the original line of the land and sea border of Cambodia, internationally recognized until March 1979, has to be taken into account.

Japan's Political Role in Region Examined

BK2504040190 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Apr 90 p 11

[Editorial: "Japan's Political Role"]

[Text] Come June, a meeting between Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Premier Hun Sen would take place in Tokyo. Hosting this meeting will be the first concrete effort by Japan—after nearly 11 years of verbal commitment—to get involved in the ongoing peace process to settle the Cambodian conflict.

It has been customary then for Tokyo to pledge and reiterate its pledge to bankroll the economic reconstruction of Cambodia in particular and of Indochina as a whole. The Tokyo meeting will be the first time that the two Cambodian protagonists will discuss with Japanese leaders how to resolve the conflict and, more importantly, what kind of assistance the post-settlement Cambodia prefers.

Japan's role in Cambodia has been carefully guided most of the time by ASEAN. Any of its political initiatives, Japan realizes, can stir up fear among Southeast Asian countries about its intentions. As a result, Japan has taken a precautionary stance toward Cambodia, dutifuly following positions adopted by ASEAN and the United States. Although Japan did from time to time in the past try to increase its role in Cambodia—like it did in its high profile shuttle diplomacy in the Middle East—it, however, failed to receive further backing from ASEAN and concerned countries.

ASEAN gave Japan its first big sting in 1987 when the six ASEAN ambassadors in Tokyo lodged a demarche to the Japanese Foreign Ministry voicing strong opposition to Japan's plan to let a private Japanese company give long-term credit to Vietnam. At that time, Vietnam had an estimated 100,000 troops inside Cambodia. ASEAN feared that the Japanese credit could help Hanoi strengthen the Vietnamese economy and thus prolong its occupation of Cambodia. It turned out that ASEAN's fear was unfounded, as Hanoi had to extricate itself from the Cambodian quagmire, which was severely draining its resources, as it tried to seek foreign economic assistance to finance domestic economic reforms.

With the swift changes that have engulfed the world in recent years, Japan has responded with much vigour to requests for aid in various parts of the world. Japan's enthusiasm in the opening of Eastern Europe is obvious.

Tokyo has already pledged more than one billion dollars in aid to Poland and Hungary. In fact, Japan's interest in the "new democracies" of Eastern Europe has raised some concern among leaders in Southeast Asia that Japanese attention, aid and investment could be diverted from this region to Eastern Europe.

Against this backdrop, it is understandable why Japan has actively pursued the idea of holding the Sihanouk-Hun Sen talks. Right after Premier Chatchai Chunhawan's suggestion that Japan should host the meeting, a senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official was dispatched to Beijing to probe China's attitude about the proposed meeting and the role of Japan. With a positive response from Beijing, Tokyo went ahead with the invitations to Sihanouk and Hun Sen for a visit to Japan.

Obviously, the most important thing at this point is Japan's desire to demonstrate its continued interest and commitment to Southeast Asia, particularly in helping to bring an early end to the Cambodian conflict. Toward this end, the best concrete move for Japan at the least political cost is to host the Sihanouk-Hun Sen meeting. It does not matter whether the meeting will produce any new outcome or not. (At a press conference in Bangkok yesterday, Sihanouk was not optimistic about the meeting in Tokyo.) Anyway, Japan will achieve its objective, at least symbolically, that it has tried to do its part in helping bridge the gap between the two Cambodian warring leaders.

Japan's attitude toward Cambodia seemed to change after a Japanese delegation visited Phnom Penh in February. Although the visit was done under the framework of the Paris conference, it was the first time that Japan was able to observe firsthand and assess the Phnom Penh government, which Tokyo has not recognized.

Like Thailand, Japan has now information from both sides of the Cambodian confict. In the past, successive Japanese governments firmly backed the anti-Vietnam coalition resistance government led by Sihanouk.

The Tokyo meeting will highlight Japan's political role in the region as a whole. Gone are the days when Japan was so timid about its own political role, even in issues affecting peace and security of the region. At a time when the US influence in this region has been declining, there is certainly an opportunity for Japan to expand its political role constructively. One big challenge is how Japan will contribute to peace and stability in the region without increasing its military might.

Japan will certainly downplay its role in Cambodia to prevent any political backlash. Nevertheless Japan's more active role in the Cambodian peace process is a crucial, positive step forward as it gropes for an acceptable political role in the region. However, Japan needs support from ASEAN and other key players in Cambodia such as China, Vietnam and the US to play this new political meaningfully. [sentence as published]

Khun Sa Henchmen Arrested, Heroin Seized

BK2704024190 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] Chiang Mai—About 50 border patrol policemen stormed a Thai border village in Mae Hong Son province yesterday, arrested two alleged drug traffickers of heroin warlord Khun Sa and seized five kilogrammes of heroin. The area has served as a springboard for Khun Sa's heroin to the world market, police said.

The policemen arrived in three trucks at the Mae Suai Village in Mae Hong Son's Muang district at around 10 am and laid siege to the small community dominated by Chinese Haw, said Pol Col [Police Colonel] Kunlachet Singhara na Ayutthaya, commander of border patrol police zone 13.

After a thorough search at the village the policemen arrested a man and a woman who are Chinese Haw with 4.9 kilogrammes of heroin produced by the Muang Thai Army of Khun Sa, Kunlachet said. The suspects, Kaineng sae Lee, 22, and Liewjong sae Joo, 34, were sent to Mae Hong Son's Muang district police station.

The border patrol police also seized two Taiwanese-made hand grenades from Kainueng, according to Kunlachet.

The village, which is about 10 kilometres from the Thai-Burmese border, is opposite a major base of Khun Sa and used by traffickers as a springboard for heroin production on the Burmese side for the world market, Kunlachet said.

Most of the village's residents are Chinese Haw and many have secretly worked for Khun Sa or had close relations with Khun Sa's men, the officer said. "Most villagers are Chinese Haw who had migrated from nearby areas and many of them are serving as Khun Sa's spies," said Kunlachet. However, there was no clash between the security forces and villagers at the Mae Suai village yesterday.

Kunlachet added that there were still heroin refineries in Thailand but they are operating as mobile units due to continued suppression by Thai authorities.

Pol Maj Gen [Police Major General] Somkiat Phuangsap, commander of the Regional Police Headquarters 7, meanwhile, told THE NATION that heroin production by Khun Sa was unlikely to decrease because the drug kingpin was in need of money to fund his ethnic army.

Besides Khun Sa's army, forces of the Burma Communist Party and the Wa ethnic group are also producing heroin, Somkiat said. "As long as these three groups are making heroin and hilltribe people are planting opium, we can't eliminate heroin from this world," he said.

The US government recently indicted Khun Sa for smuggling a large amount of heroin into the United States. But the heroin warlord has reportedly shrugged off the indictment and those close to him dismissed the

possibility that the US action would result in a smaller heroin supply from Khun Sa's camp.

Value of GSP Goods Said To Increase in 1989

BK2504032590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Apr 90 p 17

[Text] Thailand exported goods worth around US$4,401.43 million under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) last year, 29.5 percent more than in 1988. The Foreign Trade Department said the figures covered 1,204 items, 60.11 percent more than the 752 in 1988.

The department said the European Community accounted for the largest share of exports enjoying duty-free privileges with a value of $2,019.73 million baht, up 15.64 percent.

The EC was followed by the United States ($1,108.07 million, up 40.15 percent), Japan ($916.77 million, up 61.7 percent), Canada ($83.24 million, up 13.92 percent), European Free Trade Areas ($262.31 million, up 22.64 percent) and Socialist countries ($11.30 million, up 56.69 percent). The department said the $4,401.43 million in goods qualifying for GSP privileges made up 34.54 percent of the country's combined exports to these countries.

The top nine items enjoying duty-free status were metal ornaments, toys, preserved fish, chairs and parts, light fittings and Christmas trees, electrical wires and cables, furniture, artificial flowers and frozen cuttlefish.

Vietnam

Do Muoi Addresses State Management Conference

BK2604150590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Excerpt from address by Council of Ministers Chairman Do Muoi at 19-21 April Hanoi Conference on State Management in the Cultural and Social Field—read by announcer]

[Text] It is certain that you, comrades, still remember this earnest statement by Uncle Ho: I have only one great desire, that is, how to make our people happy with plenty of food and clothes and with education for all.

This year marks Uncle Ho's birth centenary. I think we must understand more thoroughly his advice about caring for the people's welfare. We must think deeply about the immense significance of this kind of care, which involves various welfare policies relating to population, welfare, knowledge, and democracy. We must thoroughly understand the strategic concept for the people and by the people in all of our activities. Here lies the superiority of socialism. If we are to persist on the socialist path followed by our party and people over the past decades, we must try to achieve this goal at all costs to bring realistic interests of the people—such as food, clothing, education, and the right to have access to information, the press, public health, physical culture, and sports.

Although we have done many good things, we must stringently criticize ourselves for having many shortcomings. For instance, education and public health have been on the decrease, the people's health has declined, the quality of children's education has gone down, and there have been many indications of wanning ethics and life-styles. All these involve precisely the question of people's welfare and democracy. They are closely interrelated and interacting. If we fail to satisfactorily care for the people's welfare, how can we talk about democracy? Only with enough food to eat can the people work effectively. However, the people's welfare does not involve only economic and production activities but also the question of how to ensure equal distributions. Social justice is now a pressing demand. It is through this that democracy is carried out with realistic results. Only by achieving this aim can we put the people's minds at ease, step up production, carry out national construction, and consolidate national security and defense.

To satisfactorily achieve this aim, we must improve the people's knowledge if we want to carry out democratization. If we fail to increase the people's knowledge, the people will not be thoroughly aware of their rights and duties—the right to be masters in a new society and the right to be masters politically, economically, socially, and culturally and in terms of production and distribution. We will not thoroughly understand the law and the duty to comply with the law, rely on the law, and struggle against law offenders. Therefore, cultural education must cover both sciences and technologies, which are areas having direct impact on the people's knowledge and which must be given appropriate attention if we are to overcome the current trend of decline.

There have been many good models in this domain about which we must consolidate the situation and draw on experiences in order to widely disseminate them and encourage the people to join hands with the state in achieving this aim. It is necessary to realize that cultural, scientific, technological, and vocational training has a direct and long-term effect on all social activities and serves as a driving force for promoting economic growth and social progress. Therefore, we must realize the need to make investments in these fields of activity, as is the case with the economic field, and must not view these moves as other purely administrative and service activities. Satisfactorily caring for and making heavy investments in these fields of activity with contributions from the state budget and from the people—with the people's contributions being the largest—will have a long-term impact on our entire national development. I have reminded those preparing our socioeconomic strategy to place their emphasis on this matter. I also remind you, comrades, about this.

Speaking about culture and welfare, one cannot help speaking about population and employment—the hottest issues. In the past 10 years our country's population has increased by 11,700,000. This increase is even larger than the entire population of certain countries. Meanwhile, as you comrades know, our economy is developing slowly. Failure to satisfactorily care for the family planning movement in order to bring the population growth rate down in proportion with economic growth will make all our socioeconomic plans go bankrupt. This must be done systematically in accordance with the law governing population growth. This must not be done in a hasty and willful fashion in which impractical objectives are set. This is not a solution exclusively for the public health sector; it also calls for efforts of the entire society. It must be done uniformly in all aspects—economic, political, social, cultural, educational, and life-style. The question of people's knowledge mentioned above is also closely related to this matter.

As for the question of employment. We must exert great efforts, and here we must come up with new ideas to explore and create new employment opportunities. We should not tie ourselves down with rigid formulas without exploring diverse capabilities and forms in order to create employment for the laboring people. Our primary objectives to be achieved between now and the year 2000 are to basically solve the employment issue, eradicate illiteracy, and popularize elementary education. A large number of the laboring people must be given vocational training. The country must have more talented people. Villages, hamlets, and wards must not have any households suffering from hunger and misery. The country must be freed from being a poor and less-developed state.

Above are a number of issues about which I would like to remind you, comrades, as you are directly charged with social welfare. These are also issues I would like to see strikingly presented in the socioeconomic strategy now under preparation. I urge the people's committees at all levels, especially the chairmen of these committees, to pay more attention and devote more energy to guiding and satisfactorily solving the many cultural, social, educational, public health, information, press, physical education, and sport problems, in order to effect a visible qualitative change in this very important domain. This is also a concrete and practical task for implementing the party Central Committee's eighth plenum resolution on renovating the party's mobilization work and enhancing the relations between the party and the people.

Hanoi Committee Studies Eighth Plenum Resolution

BK2604133090 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] On 23 and 24 April, the standing body of the Hanoi municipal party committee held a conference for the municipality's key cadres to study the Party Central Committee's eighth plenum resolution. Comrade Dao Duy Tung, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, presented to the conference the basic contents of the eighth plenum resolution, which should be firmly grasped by all key cadres.

The standing body of the Hanoi municipal party committee also decided to disseminate the basic contents of the eighth plenum resolution to all members of the municipal party organization for study to determine urgent tasks for the implementation of the resolution. This is to enable them to achieve an identity of views on the assessment of the situation and perception of the urgent tasks of the party. It is also to enhance their political responsibility and sense of organization and discipline so they can speak and work in accordance with the principle of democratic centralism and the eighth plenum resolution; uphold the sense of revolutionary vigilance, thus helping to achieve the objectives of the struggle to make the capital politically strong; further stabilize its socioeconomic situation; and successfully implement the sixth party congress resolution.

VFF Central Committee Conference Opens 24 Apr

BK2604111190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] The third conference of the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] Central Committee opened in Hanoi this morning, 24 April. Attending the conference were members of the Presidium and Central Committee of the front and chairmen and vice chairmen of the VFF committees from 44 provinces and cities throughout the country. The third conference of the VFF Central Committee will concentrate on studying and discussing three main topics:

1. The front's activities since the third VFF congress and its tasks for the days ahead.
2. The front's activities in the recent election of people's councils at three levels and its participation in modifying the Constitution.
3. A number of issues concerning the front's participation in performing organizational work and administering civilian affairs.

Addressing the opening session, lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, chairman of the VFF Central Committee Presidium, said:

For the sake of the all-people solidarity, the front cannot allow itself to be content with the outworn methods of authorizing unanimous approval in its activities. It must put itself precisely in a position where viewpoints come into contact with each other; where different interests are compared with one another; and where efforts are made to achieve mutual compromise for the destiny of the country, the ideal of socialism, and a genuine sense of agreement. To continue implementing the guidelines and tasks set forth by the third VFF congress and the party Central Committee's eighth plenum resolution, I suggest that we frankly point out what has been or has not yet been done together with the causes of shortcomings and the difficult problems that must be solved.

Regarding things that must be done in the days ahead, this time we will not outline a comprehensive work program, but we will lay stress on only a number of the main tasks. We must ensure that these tasks are assigned precisely and clearly. To achieve this, a study must be made by the front's Central Committee, especially the Presidium and Secretariat, to discover what issues must be tackled and what work methods must be employed.

Following Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho's opening speech, Comrade Do Duy Tung, member and secretary of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, presented the contents of the party Central Committee's eighth plenum resolution. The third conference of the VFF Central Committee will continue its work tomorrow [25 April] and will conclude on 27 April.

Labor Minister Views Labor Cooperation Abroad

BK2504162390 Hanoi VNA in English 1510 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 25—Vietnamese Minister of Labor, War Invalids and Social Welfare Tran Dinh Hoan has reaffirmed the Vietnamese Government's policy of continuing to expand labor cooperation with all countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

In an exclusive interview with VNA, Tran Dinh Hoan rejected the false reports in some foreign press agencies and newspapers claiming that Vietnam has stopped sending its workers to and is repatriating before schedule those who are working in East European countries due to the "anti-Vietnam" psychosis there. "However," he said, "it must be pointed out that the political, social and economic changes in those countries did bring about and will continue to bring about a surplus of labor including Vietnamese labour. Together with responsible organs in those countries, we are evaluating the possible surplus of labor in those countries to prepare for governmental-level consultations to settle the problem properly on the basis of the signed agreements and protocols in the interests of the Vietnamese workers and of the country in case of repatriation before the expiry of the contracts."

Minister Tran Dinh Hoan, continued: "At the start, we did not use the word 'labor export' to designate the sending of Vietnamese youth to work in the Soviet Union and some other East European countries because originally this was not conceived as a purely economic transaction but also and chiefly as an act of cooperation in the fraternal and friendly spirit among socialist countries. In fact, a decade ago when it freshly came out of war, Vietnam faced severe economic difficulties, including the shortage of jobs. To help Vietnam ease its economic difficulties including unemployment problem, the Soviet Union, the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria agreed to receive Vietnamese workers under labor cooperation contracts ranging from four years (for women) to six years (for men) in the Soviet Union and five years in other countries. This is also aimed at helping Vietnam to train skilled workers and technicians. Both contracting parties agreed that the cooperation has attained the set targets. Most directors of the enterprises employing Vietnamese workers are satisfied with the work productivity, skill and sense of responsibility of the Vietnamese workers. The director of the Freital Steel Work in the GDR said that a number of Vietnamese workers at his factory achieved the standard of group leader after only four or five years work, a thing which would take a German worker from eight to ten years under normal conditions. For its part, labor cooperation has also brought to Vietnam concrete economic benefits not only to the workers themselves but also to the national economy.

More Than 280 Criminals Arrested in Thanh Hoa

BK2604143490 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Implementing Directive No. 135 of the chairman of the Council of Ministers, in 10 days—from 15 to 24 April—the security forces in Thanh Hoa arrested more than 280 criminals; investigated or discovered more than 100 cases of infraction; recovered 11 army rifles and more than 8,000 rounds of ammunition; a quantity of grenades, mine detonators, daggers, and bayonets; more than 50 kilograms of explosives; and large quantities of stolen or misappropriated items valued at hundreds of millions of dong belonging to the state and people.

Thanks to good propaganda and education, 12 criminals have surrendered to the authorities recently. In the current crime suppression drive, the Thanh Hoa public security service presented certificates of commendation and a 45,000-dong reward to three students at the general basic school in Minh Tho Village, Nong Cong District, for their bravery and resourcefulness in arresting a dangerous criminal who had earlier escaped from a reeducation camp.

Message, Commentary Mark Afghanistan Anniversary

Leaders Send Greetings

BK2704031890 Hanoi VNA in English 1503 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 26—Vietnamese party and state leaders today sent a joint message of greetings to their Afghan counterparts on the occasion of the 12th anniversary of Afghanistan's April Revolution Day.

The greetings jointly signed by Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee; Vo Chi Cong, president of the State Council; and Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, was addressed to Najibullah, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) Central Committee and president of the republic, and S.A. Keshtmand, president of the Executive Committee of the Afghan Council of Ministers.

The congratulatory message says: "Over the past 12 years, under the leadership of the PDPA headed by esteemed General Secretary Najibullah, the Afghan people have overcome numerous difficulties and trials and gained important achievements in the struggle for national independence and sovereignty and national construction. We greatly rejoice at the allround achievements obtained by the Afghan Government and people, particularly the resounding victories of the heroic Afghan Armed Forces with the Afghan people's support in their fight against land-grabbing and sabotage activities of the Afghan reactionary forces backed by outside hostile and warmonger circles, for sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan.

"The Communist Party, government, and people of Vietnam have given unswerving support for the just struggle of the Afghan people and highly appreciated the Afghan Government's national reconciliation policy and its goodwill stance and attitude in search of a political solution to the Afghan issue in order to put an early end to the civil war and restore peace in Afghanistan. We sternly condemn the imperialist and the reactionary forces for their dark schemes against Afghanistan and their intervention in the country's internal affairs.

"We are very satisfied at the fine development of the militant solidarity, friendship, and cooperation between the two parties and states on the basis of the Vietnam-Afghanistan Treaty of Peace and Friendship."

In conclusion, the message wishes the Afghan people even greater successes in national defense and construction and the militant solidarity, friendship, and cooperation between the two parties and states further consolidation and development.

Paper Marks Event

BK2704085890 Hanoi VNA in English 0747 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 27 - The Afghanistan people have celebrated the 12th anniversary of the April Revolution at a time when the country is still facing difficulties and complications due to the frenzied sabotage of the reactionary forces at home in collusion with the outside imperialist and other reactionary forces, says QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in a commentary today.

The army paper goes on: "However, Afghanistan's success in smashing the recent military coup d'etat showed that the anti-revolutionary forces could not prevent the implementation of the Afghan Government's political and military tasks, and could not break the policy of national reconciliation.

"The victory in the Jalalabad battlefield and other places last year as well as the present military situation in the country have demonstrated that the Afghan revolution has full ability of self-defense and of defeating whatever scheme of rebellion."

"By strengthening and consolidating their unity and unceasingly heightening their vigilance, the Afghan people and their revolutionary forces will smash all evil schemes of the enemy," the paper says in conclusion.

Joint Venture With Japanese Company Established

BK2704100390 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] The Vung Tau-Con Dao special zone on 21 April commissioned the VECO-VICOSEN [expansion unknown] dress-making factory. This is a joint venture established between the special zone's export corporation VECO and the Japanese company VICOSEN under license No. 59-DT issued by the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment.

The total investment capital of the factory is $954,939, of which $300,000 has been initially paid. The Vietnamese and Japanese sides share their investment capital, while profits will be divided at a 40/60 proportion. The Vietnamese side paid for expenses in building the factory, installing electric power and water supply, and in buying land. The Japanese side invested in machinery, equipment, transportation, and raw materials. The factory will produce ready-made clothes for export. In its experimental production period, the factory will produce 25,000 suits of clothes a month. The commission of this joint venture has drawn special attention from Vietnamese and Japanese interested parties.

French To Build Hotels in Ho Chi Minh City

BK2604103890 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] According to AFP, a French maritime products company on 23 April disclosed that it would invest 500 million francs, equivalent to $85 million, in the construction of hotels and other projects in support of entertainment activities in Ho Chi Minh City. Protocols have been signed with the Saigon Tourism Corporation and the People's Committee of the First Precinct, Ho Chi Minh City. The projects include a 300-room luxury hotel on a 6,000-square- meter plot of land on Ham Nghi Avenue, downtown Ho Chi Minh City, and an entertainment complex comprising a 200-room hotel and a tennis court in Thu Duc. The construction of these projects will begin within three months.